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THURSDAY, MAY 19TH, 2011

ABOVE: Anne Birt is hoping for an enthusiastic response to the 'Men on the Run' event so that the 'tremendous' research work into cancer taking place at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff is fully supported.

COWBRIDGE MEN WILL BE 'ON THE RUN'...

Cancer charity event honours those 'friends we have lost'

SUNDAY, July 3, will be an emotional day in Cowbridge as local people remember some of the town's great characters and take part in a run on behalf of Cancer Research UK.

The 'Men on the Run in Cowbridge' event is being held at the town's rugby club and is dedicated '*In memory of Jeff Wadham, Neil Trehearne and the many friends we have lost in this town…*'

It is only the third such event in Wales and England – the previous two 'Men on the Run' days have been in Gloucester and Worcestershire.

The chairman of the local Cancer Research UK committee, Anne Birt, explained: "We were keen to do the event in memory of great characters and friends that we have lost locally, and hope that it might be the first of a number of events.

"Participants have a choice of two runs for the charity, 10km or a less arduous 5km.

"In fact, we don't mind if people walk it, so long as they do the fundraising!"

Fundraising days like this are more important than ever to Cancer Research UK as street collections have shown a 40 per cent drop – a consequence, local volunteers believe, of the recession.

But Anne is keen to emphasise that Wales is making an important contribution to the fight against cancer.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7.)

New mayor is elected!

Coun Andy Banks was installed as the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian in a ceremony on Tuesday (May 17). He is pictured above (front) with his wife Gill, the Mayoress. Also in the picture is the newly-elected deputy mayor, Coun Nicola Thomas, her consort Coun Andrea Burges, and the mace bearers, Barrie Jenkins and Geoff Herman.

St Hilary has royal occasion

EVER since the royal wedding, The GEM has been inundated with photographs of community events inspired by the occasion.

Look out next week for more from a day of fun at St Hilary, a village that really pulled out all the stops!

The end for Ragg trade?

IT could be the end of an era in Cowbridge High Street, after signs appeared in the windows of Raggs dress shop, announcing its closure.

The GEM hopes to have more details next week.

The Chiropractic Clinic

Back and neck pain sufferers in Cowbridge and the Vale can now find relief thanks to the new Chiropractic Clinic which has just opened in Cowbridge Health Centre. Dr. Jamie Townsend D.C is a registered chiropractor who, with his wife Sarah has run and practiced from the successful Brackla Family Chiropractic Clinic in Bridgend since 2004.

Jamie has said that he is very excited about the new venture as the facilities at Cowbridge Health Centre are exceptional enabling him to offer full disabled access and free on-site parking which are of great benefit to our patients.

For more information or to book your **FREE introductory initial consultation and examination** please call The Chiropractic Clinic on **01446 488489** or **email: cowbridge-chiropractic@hotmail.co.uk**

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Public holiday for Saint's day?

I AM glad to see that there is a consultation taking place on whether St. David's Day should be a public holiday.

Wouldn't it be great if we could celebrate our national day with a day off? Isn't it about time that March 1 was marked as a public holiday?

I would urge you all to have your say at www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/8068.aspx
Coun Richard Bertin, Barry
(Independent Member,
Vale of Glamorgan Council)

What do other readers think? Should the Welsh Saint's day be a public holiday? Contact us at the address given at the foot of the page.

'No decision has been made over gypsy site'

I HAVE read with interest in recent weeks, the various letters and media reports which all seem to suggest that the council is intending to earmark land at Cemetery Road, Barry, for the purposes of a gipsy and traveller site.

As cabinet member for planning and transportation, I write to set the record straight and to provide information so that all your readers can fully appreciate the position of the council.

The Vale Council has a duty to provide land through its Local Development Plan for gipsies and travellers.

This is a requirement that has been set down by the Welsh Assembly Government and the council has identified that there is a need to provide such a site (or sites) in the Vale of Glamorgan.

As part of ongoing work, on the Local Development Plan, the Vale Council has written to all individuals and organisations who have put forward proposals for land (these are commonly referred to as candidate sites), seeking feedback as to whether they would consider the use of their proposed (or candidate) site for the provision of a traveller site.

It has been made abundantly clear in the letter issued by the head of planning and transportation to all promoters that this is an initial investigation with the aim of compiling a database of sites, which will then need further consideration and analysis.

No decisions have been made as to which, if indeed any of the sites that come forward will be appropriate and this will be a matter for further assessment.

The Local Development Plan will, once drafted be published for full consultation and all those with an interest in the plan will be given the opportunity to make comments to the council.

More information on the plan can be obtained on the council's web site through the following link http://www.vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/planning/planning_policy/local_development_plan.aspx.

Coun Jeffrey James, OStJ,
(Vale cabinet member for planning and transportation).

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Council should be more accountable for reckless spending'

THE Barry Dock link road has claimed the lives of many since it opened. It is a long sweeping road, is a mecca for the speed merchant on two wheels and four alike, let alone the 18-wheelers thundering up at maximum speed.

Earlier this year, we started to see some activity, with posts being erected either side of the Coldbrook junction. We had hoped they would be for speed cameras – so desperately needed in a death-ridden area, but no, they were very pretty, flashing speed advisory signs.

What a waste of money, as there is no deterrent for the speed merchants, who use the flashing signs as a way of checking their speedometer is functioning properly as they race up and down the road.

I read recently in The GEM that the Vale Council were seeking funding for traffic lights at the junction.

Surely they could have used the money wasted on smart flashy signs more wisely?

Tonight, I have witnessed the third accident in this death trap area since the signs went live – living proof that they do not work.

I really think the Vale Council should be more accountable for their reckless spending – and rectify their mistake in putting up these flashy signs immediately by starting the process of installing traffic lights, which would ultimately slow the traffic down and save lives.
Michael Fox,
Barry.

Memories of old paddling pool

IN last week's paper, I noticed an article about the opening of the old paddling pool on Barry Island and it stated that the pool was built in the 1930s.

This postcard reproduction of the pool (above) is postmarked 1907.

The pool was always referred to as the glass pool because of the amount of glass from bottles which had been thrown in it.

The water along the coast in the 1940s and 1950s was heavily polluted. When the tide came in, it brought a great deal of sewage with it and when the tide went out, it was deposited in the pool.

Before the pool was demolished, I only ever remember seeing it emptied in the winter.

The wooden plugs were knocked out allowing the water to drain and the pool was then cleaned of the glass and slurry ready for the summer.

I was told it was demolished on health and safety grounds and the cost of having a permanent lifeguard in the summer patrolling it.
Tom Clemett,
Barry.

LLANMAES PLANT SALE SUCCESS

LLANMAES Social Committee held their annual plant sale at the village hall on Sunday May 15, with a variety of bedding plants and perennials, vegetable plants and hanging baskets for sale.

Many plants were donated and the committee would like to thank residents for their generosity.

The event was very successful, with fine weather contributing to a good number of visitors and also the cream teas were very well supported.

Thanks also to Bill Lee for his usual fine display of hanging baskets, wealth of knowledge and raffle prize.
Debbie Cartwright,
(Llanmaes Social Committee)

Young people join the fight against anti-social behaviour

YOUNG people have helped the Safer Vale Partnership produce an innovative DVD to combat anti-social behaviour.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said it has a four-stage approach to tackling antisocial behaviour.

Following complaint, a letter is sent to those identified or their parent or guardian: "Further incidents or a more serious initial incident will result in progression to stage 2 – a meeting with a member of the partnership, to reinforce that such behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated and it is at this stage that the new DVD will be used.

"If the behaviour continues Stage 3 is known as the ABC stage, it stands for acceptable behaviour contract, the person will be invited to a meeting where they will sign an ABC, this is a commitment by them to change their behaviour.

"Stage 4 was the final stage of the process and the point at which, after consultation, the partnership will apply for a full antisocial behaviour order (ASBO)."

Overall, antisocial behaviour has decreased by 14.7 per cent in the Vale of Glamorgan.

On the DVD young people from the Vale and neighbouring Bridgend, who have been given an ASBO, tell how they are now regretting behaving anti-socially.

The anti-social behaviour team worked with Vibe, a local youth organisation, to produce the DVD and young people from the Vale and Bridgend who volunteered to be filmed.

Superintendent Paul James said: "I would like to thank the young people who took part in the DVD and shared their experience.

"At one time, these young people caused considerable antisocial behaviour in our community and through hard work and realisation of what they have done have turned their lives around and are now in college or employed.

"I hope that people who see the DVD in the future take notice of the consequence and think long and hard about the effect their actions are having."

If you are harassed or victimised, if antisocial behaviour is affecting your quality of life or making you fear for your safety or the safety of others, contact the 101 number or the Vale Contact Centre on 01446 700111.

An open letter... YOU WERE ONLY JOKING?

When you said as a new government that you wouldn't balance the budget on the backs of the poor... You were only joking, weren't you?

The fact that you have made life so much worse for disabled people and their loved ones who have given up other lives to stay at home to care. ..You didn't mean that to happen, did you?

You meant to at least keep a level playing field, so we would not lose anything, didn't you? And that was the promise to us, wasn't it?

So when our lives are so much worse in only a year, it's a joke, isn't it? You did not mean this to happen. You stood up and said clearly that it wouldn't.

My son has £15 a week less to live on, despite your promises that the most vulnerable will not bear the brunt of our community savings.

Sorry. But I now do not believe you. What you promised is not what has happened.

So, the joke's on us for believing you, for believing a better future for all included us, the disabled, the poor, the fragile, the fractured, the old, the ill and the dying.

You have made our life more difficult, and you have made us poorer.

Shame on me for believing; shame on you for lying.
Sol Jorgensen,
Wick

Two-horse race for the Tory leadership

ANDREW RT DAVIES, the regional Assembly Member for South Wales Central, will contest the Welsh Conservative leadership election in a two-horse race against Monmouth AM Nick Ramsay.

The Conservatives are looking for a new leader in the Assembly because Nick Bourne lost his seat at the recent election.

The two rivals are both in the newly-announced shadow cabinet, with Mr Davies, who lives in the Vale, taking responsibility for business, enterprise and technology, and Mr Ramsay taking finance, business manager, chief whip and shadow leader of the House.

Mr Davies said: "I am very pleased to be able to confirm that I shall be putting my name forward for consideration by the party membership.

"I offer sincere thanks to the Assembly Members who are supporting my campaign, both as friends and colleagues.

"The Welsh Conservatives have consistently moved forward over the last decade, and I very much look forward to continuing that good work with my colleagues across the party, if I am elected as the leader of the Assembly group."

He continued: "I hope that in my candidature, I am able to offer, not only the experience I have gained since becoming an Assembly Member, but also a wealth of experience gained from more than 20 years working outside politics.

"I shall be articulating a Conservative philosophy of the centre-right that can empower communities and enrich people's lives. Above all, though, it will be built on the core principle of fairness.

"I must thank in advance my wife and children for the support that they continue to give me in what will be an exceptionally busy couple of months!"

SAMARITANS' NEW SUPPORT GROUP

A NEW Samaritans 'bereaved by suicide' support group in Llantwit Major (announced in last week's GEM) has changed the nights it will meet.

The first meeting will be tonight, Thursday, May 19, rather than on May 26, at 7pm–9pm at Western Vale Mind, 29 Crawshay Drive, Llantwit Major, CF61 2LH.

Further groups will be held on the third Thursday of each month.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
19 Thur	09.22	9.8	21.44	9.9
20 Fri	10.08	9.7	22.29	9.6
21 Sat	10.54	9.3	23.13	9.2
22 Sun	11.33	8.8	23.53	8.7
23 Mon			12.20	8.3
24 Tues	00.44	8.2	13.09	7.9
25 Wed	01.39	7.9	14.02	7.6
26 Thur	02.34	7.6	15.11	7.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Year-3 poets.

Year-4 poets.

Year-6 poets.

Artistic endeavour at Y Bont Faen school!

Y BONT FAEN Primary school recently hosted a 'more able and talented' day for the young artists in the rural Vale cluster of primary schools.

A spoksepserson reports that Mr Lloyd, deputy headteacher and subject leader in art, invited all the local primary schools to join by sending their best year-6 artists.

Twenty-five children in all attended the whole day of activities and some impressive work was produced on the theme of Glas/glass.

The students had five tasks to complete, including learning how to draw blue and green glass items, tones and shades of blue and green abstract designs, designing coins with national flowers as emblems, as well as some ITC tasks which culminated in an exhibition to show off their talents to their parents and teachers.

Congratulations to Mr Lloyd for a very successful day, and to the children who worked so hard to produce so many wonderful pieces.

These More Able and Talented days will be taking on some sporting talents as soon as the scheme starts to expand and the school is waiting with bated breath for the discovery of another up and coming Welsh athlete on June 8!

Assistant head Mrs Adams decided to see if budding young poets in KS2 could be published in a children's poetry book! Many of the children from year-3 to year-6 entered various poems, in different formats and with different themes, into a young writers competition, along with entrants from all over the UK.

From the 120 pupils able to submit their poems, they managed to get approx 60 poems included in The Young Writer's Anthology 2011! The book is due to be published on July 31. Notably, the school's winning Bard, 'Bob Stevengson' will also have the winning poem from the Eistedfodd published in the book

Congratulations to the successful youngsters who have received this recognition and to all those who entered and who did not manage to get published.

Last time Mrs Adams attempted this venture, she managed to get nine of the 26 year-3 students published – all of whom are in our present year-6 this year, seven won for a second time this year!

BIRDS

Beautiful, majestic,wonderful things,
With large, widespread colourful wings.
There are thrushes, robins, parrots and hawks,
Cockatoos, Pelicans, Penguins and storks.

Incredible, amazing, immense creatures,
With talons, beaks and similar features.
Their Majesty they all deserve a throne
They even have amazingly lightweight bones.

Ravens are black and magpies too,
Flycatchers and kingfishers are known as blue.
In the places where emperors and kings rule,
They often use their beaks as an ingenious tool.

Dens and nests these animals all build,
But in winter they escape or they'll be chilled.
Owls are the ones who hunt at night,
They are also designed to kill and fight.
Searching for food they love a meal,
Maggots, worms - it's the real deal.
My favourite fiery Phoenix friend,
Rises from ashes - now I may end.

by Bob Stevengson
(*AKA* James Morris)

Local sixth former wins a place at Youth Theatre

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive sixth former, Helena Dennis, has been accepted as a member of the prestigious National Youth Theatre of Great Britain.

Auditions took place during the spring at locations all around the UK, and Helena auditioned at Chapter Arts Centre in Canton.

Out of nearly 4,500 young people who auditioned from all over the UK, Helena was one of the lucky few to be chosen to join the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain.

NYT is a charitable organisation and has been the starting point for many of the UK's most famous actors, including Sir Ben Kingsley, Sir Derek Jacobi, Dame Helen Mirren and recently David Walliams, Matt Lucas, Orlando Bloom, Daniel Craig, and Catherine Tate.

The National Youth Theatre of Great Britain promotes artistic excellence, cultural enrichment and the personal development of young people across the country. As part of the NYT membership Helena will now be attending an intensive two week summer school in August, in London.

Helena Dennis

Here she will be given professional training, including workshops with well know actors and directors.

On completion of the course, Helena will be available for many NYT productions, which in the past have taken place in many parts of the world.

Helena said: "This is a life changing opportunity for me, an opportunity of a lifetime and a fantastic first step into a career that I'm passionate about".

Course fees, accommodation and living expenses for the two week summer school will amount to nearly £1,000 and NYT are actively encouraging course members to seek out sponsorships and raise money to meet these costs.

Helena is studying for A levels in drama, English and photography. She is taking a year out before trying to gain a place at a full time drama college; possibly the Guildhall in London.

She is also a member of the Young Actors Studio at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Helena said: "I'd love to hear from anyone or any business who would consider sponsoring me to help meet some of my course costs."

To support Helena, contact her at: helena@flyingsites.co.uk.

PD

Book festival events for the coming week

THE Cowbridge Book Festival is midway through it run and one of the organisers, Stella Cheeseman, told The GEM:"Although we're half way through the first Cowbridge Book Festival and the Alastair Campbell talk on Friday is sold out book enthusiasts will still be able to meet and hear a clutch of well known and distinguished authors and buy signed copies of their books."

THE following events will take place in the coming week:

Friday, May 20, 11.30am-12.30pm – Dai Smith: 'In the Frame' - a powerful alternative history of 20th century South Wales; 1pm-2pm – Niall Griffiths: 'Ten Pound Pom' - an exploration of Australia, its people and national identity; 2.30pm-3.30pm – Fiona Mountain: 'Reel Heiress' - historical novel based on the life of a 17th century entomologist, Eleanor Glanville; 7.30pm-9pm – Alastair Campbell (chair Jamie Owen): 'Power and the People' - volume 2 of the riveting Campbell diaries.

Saturday, May 21, 10am-4pm – vintage and craft fair; 10am-11am – Catrin Collier: 'Magda's Daughter' and 'One Last summer' - two different refugee experiences in Britain; 11.30am-12.30pm – Robin Bayley: 'The Mango Orchard' - an extraordinary story of a family lost and found; 1pm-2pm – Horatio Clare: 'Single Swallow' - the story of the north-bound migration between Cape Town and South Wales; 2.30pm-3.30pm – Tristan Hughes: 'Eye Lake' - new thriller by award winning, highly acclaimed author; 4pm-5pm – Fiona Stanford: 'Don't Say Goodbye' - our heroes and the families they leave behind.

Sunday, May 22, 11.30am-12.30pm – Tessa Hadley: 'The London Train' - a vivid account of impulses and accidents that shape lives; 3.30pm-4.30pm – Boyd Clack: 'Kisses Sweeter Than Wine' - a sharp-, lively and absorbing literary memoir.

COWBRIDGE BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

THE results from the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club (Monday, May 9) are as follows:

First, Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock 63.02 per cent; Second, Mary Moore and John Beard 61.20; Third, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 58.07; Fourth, Su Summerhayes and Sue Norris 56.51; Fourth, David Wright and John Raymond 56.51; Sixth, Ray Smith and Gwynne Maddox 55.21.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Tuesday, May 10):

First, Debbie Rosevear and Mearl Owen 60.42 per cent; Second, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey 58.33; Third, Ann Miller and Judy Springett 56.44; Fourth, Pam Higgs and Joyce Birmingham 56.25; Fourth, Mary Thomas and Dennis Barker, 56.25; Sixth, Sara Bartlett and Anne Hughes 55.83; Seventh, Margaret and Ian Fernyhough 53.75.

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PARISHIONERS 'CONFIRMED' IN HOLY CROSS CEREMONY

Members of the clergy with the people being confirmed, along with friends and family.
PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK

A confirmation service was held for 15 local parishioners at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on May 11.

The service was conducted by Assistant Bishop, the Right Reverend David J Wilbourne.

The presenting clergy were Canon Derek Belcher, the Reverend Melanie Prince and the Reverend Edwin Counsell.

A church spokesman said: "Our thanks go to all those who prepared the candidates for confirmation and all who organised and took part in the service."

Car wash will help fund Latin American project

by PHILIP IRWIN

GEM readers may remember that we recently reported on Cowbridge student, Emma Gooding, who is raising funds so that she can spend almost a year working in Nicaragua helping vulnerable women.

To fundraise for her travel to Central America, she and a group of friends recently staged a charity car wash at Cowbridge Fire Station.

Emma told The GEM: "So far, I have raised about half of the money for the project (minimum £6,000 in total) which also included running a half marathon in Norwich."

The Norwich connection is because Emma is a student at the University of East Anglia (UEA).

She said: "I want to thank the Cowbridge Fire Station for supporting the car wash, and the friends who helped wash the cars.

"We raised nearly £300. I will also be having a fundraising barn dance on July 9 in Cowbridge Town Hall, which everyone is most welcome to come to." .

She explained: 'Next year I will set out on a new adventure to work alongside some of the neediest people in Nicaraguan society with the charity 'Latin-link' for 10 months to volunteer with the project 'Nueva Vida' (New Life).

"While I am in Nicaragua, I will be living with a family from the local church, and working with vulnerable women, trafficked victims and street children.

"After going to El Salvador and Nicaragua when I was 16, my heart was broken for the poor and since then I have been desperate to go back and do my bit.

"I feel so fortunate that UEA is allowing me to help out at this project as part of my degree.

"While in university, I have started to look into the global issue of human trafficking, and there are now more people held in modern day slavery than at any other time in history."

She continued: "Two weeks ago I went to The Global Summit on human trafficking in London, where they were predicting that the number of victims entering Britain will soar during the 2012 Olympics.

"It is important that everyone is vigilant to the signs of trafficking, as it happens in every city – there was a brothel with trafficked victims that was raided in the next road to where I live in Norwich."

For more information about Emma's trip, or to sponsor her, email e-l.c.gooding@hotmail.co.uk or donate on www.justgiving.com/Emma-Gooding0

Emma Gooding at the charity car wash (above) and at the finish of a half-marathon (below).

LAMBS on nostalgic visit to new Cowbridge Comprehensive School

ON the evening of May 11, 21 members of Llansannor's local history group, LAMBS, participated in a conducted tour of the new main building of Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Members were greatly impressed with the high quality of provision for teaching, learning and recreation, and with the very attractive and innovative architecture.

School 'Word of the Week' happened to be 'nostalgia', and during the tour many members looked back nostalgically to their own secondary school education decades ago, often in inadequate buildings with limited facilities that contrasted starkly with the extensive range and high quality of provision in this outstanding new school.

On behalf of LAMBS, the facilities officer, Mr Brandon Walters, was thanked for conducting the group on an excellent and highly informative tour of the building. Afterwards, members dined at the Trio Brasserie in Cowbridge.

The LAMBS programme of events for 2011–12 is published on the web at: www.lambs-group.org.uk. **MB**

Creative masks, cupcakes and flower-arranging!

AT a craft evening on April 20, members of Penllyn and District WI created masks, getting in some practice for the WI July show.

The members' meeting on May 3 in Penllyn Village Hall, was opened by president, Novello Peters.

The minutes were read by secretary Jane Exell, and members were informed of forthcoming events.

The annual walk (and evening meal), which was due to take place later this month, has now been postponed until June 14, and it was decided that the Ogmore area would be the walk venue; more details will be available later.

Forms were distributed to members for them to sign up to enter competitions in July's WI Show.

Members discussed in some depth two Resolutions put forward, before voting on the issues.

They later enjoyed an interesting talk and demonstration on 'cupcakes' by Yvonne Randall.

Afterwards, Yvonne was thanked by Novello Peters; teas and coffees were served and we were able to sample Yvonne's delicious cupcakes,

The results of the raffle and the competition were announced, and members chatted or browsed the book stall.

Three members attended the Glamorgan Federation spring council meeting in Porthcawl on May 4.

On May 7, six of our members took part in the NFWI flower arranging examinations in Port Talbot, and are now anxiously awaiting their results.

We are pleased to announce that president, Novello Peters, has been elected as vice-chair of Glamorgan Federation.

Our next members' meeting will be in Penllyn Village Hall on Tuesday, June 7 at 7.30pm. The speaker Sara Huws will talk on 'St Teilo's church.'

New members always welcomed, on the first Tuesday in every month (except August) at 7.30pm in the village hall.

For further information, telephone 01656 674191 or 01656 647115. **MN**

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Mad Hatter's tea party

THE Reading Rooms in Bonvilston was transformed for the joint 16th birthday party of May Rebecca Harvey, of Treoes, and Nia Spilsbury of Penarth.

Rebecca, who attends Howells School, Llandaff, and Nia, who attends Bro Morgnnwg in Barry, decided on the venue for the convenience of friends travelling from Cardiff and the Vale.

I was invited along to the party which took place on May 7, to view the transformation which had taken place.

The hall had been transformed into a scene from *Alice in Wonderland*: Guests entered through a rose arch surrounded by trees, with giant playing cards.

There was a magical garden scene, complete with croquet lawn, flamingos and mini hedgehogs. As befitting a Mad Hatter's tea party, the table was adorned with mismatched china, teapots, and old fashioned cake stands.

The 40 guests enjoyed a sumptuous tea, followed by singing and dancing

Llangan vsit

DURING my visit to Llangan school on May 13, the children were enjoying a 'West End' experience, as singers worked with the children to produce a piece of musical theatre.

School garden

THE school has been funded by the creative rural communities to create a School Centenary Garden.

A design in slate and brick has been constructed with a beautiful water feature and an array of flowers surrounding the area.

The official opening of the garden will take place on the school's special centenary open day on July 13.

All past pupils, staff, parents and governors, as well as the local community are welcome to attend.

Please contact the school on 01446 772403 if you wish to attend; email: llanganps@vale of glamorgan.co.uk; website: www.llangan-primaryschool.uk.org.

ABOVE: Nia and Rebecca (Picture courtesy of Ann Clark, Treoes).

100 Club draw

WINNERS of St Canna's 100 club draw were: first, Ruth and Gareth Williams; second, Sue and Alan Rees; third, Nora Meek; fourth, Susan Jenkins; fifth, Mary Lloyd.

Concert

A CONCERT by the Minnesingers will take place in St Cannas Church, Llangan, on Friday, June 17, at 7.30pm.

Tickets £6, to include a raffle, available from Liz Mathews (01656 664 490) or Jill Rosser (01446 772 481).

• *Commiseration to Jill on her accident which took place in Cowbridge recently, when she sustained a broken leg.*

Service

A SERVICE will be held at Saron Chapel, Treoes, on Sunday, May 22 at 3pm. Everyone will be assured of a warm wel-

Memories of a young virtuoso

COWBRIDGE U3a held their first meeting at a new venue on Wednesday May 11, at United Reform Church, Cowbridge, and the same venue will be used for the June meeting.

The meeting heard an informative and entertaining talk by Howard Mortimore on Harry Parr, whose father was born in Pontypidd and he was born in Neath.

He wrote his first song at the age of four years and could play the piano by the age of five. Harry had his first song published at the age of 10 and by the time he was 13 had written two operettas.

He met Gracie Fields in London and became her accompanist, touring with her around the world, and also accompanied Shirley Temple while he was in Hollywood.

During the war Harry left Gracie Fields and began putting on London shows like the '*Lisbon Story*'. He died at the very young age of 41.

The vote of thanks was proposed By Terry Dunsworth and enthusiastically supported by all present. **BC**

Fun, games, a chance to meet up with old friends – the Vale celebrates royal occasion

ON Friday, April 29, the royal wedding took place in London, but for local communities across the Vale it provided the opportunity for people to meet up at their local public house for a 'knees-up'.

As you can see in these images captured by local photographer Andy Wicks, young and old enjoyed games such as tug of war – before tucking into a right royal spread.

Photographs by ANDY WICKS
www.valeevents.co.uk

Llantwit under-11s' batting proves too much for Wanderers

FOLLOWING the rain last week Llantwit Major Cavaliers under-11s kicked off their league season with a home game against Barry Wanderers.

Wanderers captain Sam Harris won the toss and put Llantwit Major in, much to home captain Nick Harris's delight.

Llantwit started badly losing two wickets but this was pulled back in the main by Ben Hunter scoring 13 not out and putting the impetus back into the Llantwit innings.

No other Llantwit batsmen were out, which makes a huge difference at this age group with 6 runs deducted for each wicket.

Llantwit finished with 289 off 18 overs as they were one player short.

The Llantwit players went out knowing that a good bowling performance should start them with a win and they took the chance with both hands.

Bowling tightly they managed to take 9 Barry wickets leaving them with too big a mountain to climb.

Moses Gee and Angus Mitchell both picked up two wickets each with all the others getting in on the act restricting Barry to 229 and thus winning by 60 runs.

LMCCC team: Nick Harris (cpt), Moses Gee, Lloyd Richards, Fraser Prior, Angus Mitchell, Dom Henson, Ben Hunter, Joss Harris (wkt) and Rhys Evans.

Next week Llantwit Major travel to Sully.

PH

Young entrepreneurs salute the rural funding scheme

Creative Rural Communities' senior rural regeneration officer Nia Hollins and principal rural regeneration officer Phil Chappell (on left), with some of the bursaries scheme participants.

YOUNG entrepreneurs gathered at Bar 44 in Cowbridge recently to celebrate the end of a unique scheme that has helped them boost their home-grown businesses.

The 'Inspiring the Vale' bursaries scheme, offered by the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative, Creative Rural Communities, offered young people up to the age of 30 the opportunity to bid for grants which could be then used to set up a business or community enterprise within the rural area.

The bursaries were available to individuals or groups to support full-time, part-time or even spare-time ventures, and could be put towards a number of factors including marketing, location/premises costs, equipment, IT, research, familiarisation visits and more.

The project came to a natural end in March 2011.

Young business people who had benefited from the scheme attended the celebration event and it was clear to see that its effects would be seen in the area for some time.

From bespoke cupcake and hamper companies to podcasting, events management and baby products; the range of successful companies created and supported by the scheme is diverse.

One company has even used its bursary to develop a prototype for a renewable energy source.

In all, 23 new businesses were set up as a result of the funding.

Senior regeneration officer, Nia Hollins, welcomed guests to the event and paid tribute to the dedication shown by all.

She said: "This has been a tremendous achievement and I've loved working with everyone involved with the scheme.

"We've had such a variety of businesses come to us for help, each one with its own identity. I wish everyone the very best for the future."

Other businesses that have benefited from the scheme include a local rock band, a professional surfing school, a barber and a PAT testing company.

The 'Inspiring the Vale' bursaries scheme has received funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 which is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

LLANTWIT COUNCILLOR IS ELECTED AS VALE MAYOR

THE long-serving Llantwit Major town councillor John Clifford, has been elected Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Coun Clifford, who is the sole Conservative Vale councillor in Llantwit Major, served as deputy mayor last year.

Coun Clifford told The GEM that his consort would be his wife Christine, but that at the moment she was unwell.

He said: "I am very grateful that Carol Williams, who has just retired as manager of the Eryl Surgery, has agreed to act as consort until Christine is able to join me on official duties."

He said that he would be nominating three official charities, one being involved in research into myeloma, a cancer of bone marrow, and also Llamau, which works with young people who are homeless.

He added: "I can't be too specific about my third charity, but it is a local retreat for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse."

Coun John Clifford with his consort Carol Williams.

St Curig school cooks show off their culinary skills!

NEWS FROM YSGOL GYMRAEG SANT CURIG

THE school's cookery club baked their last cake of the year just before the Easter break.

The club has run for the first two terms and has been a roaring success!

The plan was to run the club for the first half term but, due to popular demand, the club ended up running for two full terms! Thanks go mainly to Mr Aled Williams, year-4 teacher, who has organised the club with the help of other staff members.

A keen cook himself, Mr Williams was brimming with enthusiasm every week, thinking up new ideas for the children to hone their culinary skills.

He said: "I make a mean lemon drizzle at home and thought it would be nice to give the children a chance to develop these types of life skills in school.

The club has really taken off this year and we are already making preparations for the club to restart in September."

The children baked cakes, made 'fruit smoothies' and cooked pizzas as well as other foods.

The headteacher Mrs Owen is a huge fan of the club and purchased a brand new cooker to support their efforts.

A big thank you also must go to parent Mr Tony Bumford, who once again supported the after school clubs with a kind donation of £150.

Part time chef Mr Williams raced out quickly to purchase a microwave oven for the club out of his share of the money!

Hoffai'r ysgol ddiolch i Mr Aled Williams am gynnal clwb coginio hynod o lwyddiannus eleni. Roedd y plant yn llawn brwdfrydedd wrth iddynt ddatblygu eu sgiliau yn y gegin.

Rwy'n siwr y byddai Mr Williams eisiau diolch i'r staff a wnaeth ei helpu yn ystod y flwyddyn. Estynir gwahoddiad i John Torode a Greg Wallace o Masterchef i bigo mewn i'r clwb y flwyddyn nesaf! Hoffai'r ysgol hefyd ddiolch i riant sef Mr Tony Bumford, am ei gyfraniad hael o £150 tuag at ein clybiau allgyrsiol eto eleni.

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY by Harold Williams

How the empire of bees moves to next generation

SWARMS! Swarms and more swarms, just like last year, Barbara Chick and I are responding to calls from people who have bee problems!

Several have been for bumblebees and several for the solitary bees.

Although they are called solitary bees they do like to carry out their activities as a group, when given the right circumstances.

Each bee is in fact an individual (female) who is doing her own thing.

In total, she will lay around 40 eggs (not all in the same place) in holes in the ground and in trees or fence-posts. All receive several eggs.

Once she has exhausted her supply she will die, having fulfilled her duties and left provision for the next generation.

The next generation will remain sealed in the spot chosen by their mother until March of next year, when they will emerge as adult bees ready to mate and repeat the cycle all over again.

The honeybee, however, has a completely different approach to reproduction, hence the swarm!

Once spring has sprung and the days begin to lengthen and temperatures rise, the queen bee steps up her egg production to increase the population of the hive.

This spring has produced an abundance of forage and the queens have responded likewise.

Space becomes a premium within the beehive, so if the beekeeper does not meet the requirements of the hive, a swarm is the inevitable outcome.

Indicators are there for the beekeeper to see on inspection of the hive, i.e. frames filling with eggs and larvae, or sealed brood, drones (male bees) beginning to appear, but the most telling sign is the queen cells.

Once these are observed, the beekeeper needs to make some decisions because should he not do so, the bees are going to make them for you!

Decision made, the swarm emerges – led by the old queen and a good many of the bees from within the hive. On emerging, the queen will alight nearby and the swarm will assemble and eventually move off to their chosen new home.

A powerful pheromone (chemical attractant) is given off by the queen, which assists in keeping the swarm together as a unit.

They will each, as a matter of course, have consumed as much honey from the hive stores as they can, because for the next two to three days they will be busy making wax and building new honeycomb in the new sight and not have time for foraging.

Meanwhile, back at the old home, bees are in residence plus the queen cells, one of which is going to hatch out first and this will in all likelihood become the new queen.

She will need to be mated hence the need for male bees (drones). Once this is done, the new queen will settle down and start laying eggs to populate the hive once again.

In doing so a new hive is underway, until in a couple of years this new queen will have become the old queen and she in her turn will vacate the hive, leaving behind provision for a new generation of bees.

That then is how the bees keep their species going.

Many of the new beekeepers will be only too glad to take a swarm off our hands.

At least four swarms had decided to depart the collecting box before we could hand them over.

Sad to say, three swarms had to be destroyed due to our inability to get at them and they were causing a nuisance within the home of the people who called us out.

The swarming season is not quite over yet.

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COWBRIDGE CHOIR RAISE THE ROOF (again!) AT THE 41st ANNUAL CONCERT

ON Saturday, the Cowbridge Male Voice Choir presented their 41st annual concert to a capacity audience in Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

The evening opened memorably with the rousing strains of *Devine Brahma* from Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*.

The concert continued with such delicate folk songs as "The Water is Wide", the movingly patriotic *O Gymru,* the very well-known and appreciated *Calon Lân*, various attractive religious pieces such as *God So Loved the World* from Stainer's *Crucifixion* and concluded with Charles Aznavour's hauntingly beautiful *She* which, as the compère Keith Davies engagingly pointed out, each choir member sang to their wife or partner exclusively!

He proved a very personable compère, putting each piece into its musical context and linking them with some highly amusing stories.

Compère Keith Davies and members of Cowbridge Male Voice Choir on stage.

Members of the huge audience commented on the superb balance and beautiful tone of the choir who, as usual, were under the musical direction of Shelley Thomas-Brown with Sandra Williams as accompanist.

Sandra has been associated with the choir for the full 40 years of their existence while Shelley has conducted the choir for more than 25 years – both incredible records of dedication and enthusiasm. The soloist on this occasion was Cardiff-born baritone Gavin Davies, who has appeared with many choirs and choral societies both throughout the UK and abroad.

He was the soloist at the 61st American-Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu in Kansas City, USA, and has also performed elsewhere in the USA, Malta and Israel.

He has an extensive recital and operatic repertoire, sings regularly with Welsh National Opera and has shared the stage with such leading lights as Bryn Terfel, the pianist Ingrid Surgenor and the 1997 winner of Cardiff Singer of the World, Chinese mezzo-soprano, Guang Wang.

He exploited his powerful, rich voice to the full in singing the Toreador song from Bizet's *Carmen* but skillfully moderated it later when performing *Some Enchanted Evening* from *South Pacific* and *On the Street Where You Live* as a well-deserved encore.

His brilliant accompanist was Simon Phillippo, a member of the musical staff at Welsh National Opera where he has conducted many performances.

He is also in great demand as a pianist – concerto soloist, chamber musician and accompanist – and he is artistic director of Musica Viva, a versatile chamber ensemble of musicians from WNO and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Five founder members of the choir – Keith Brown, Meic Edwards, Bob Whitaker, Glyn Jones and Gwyn Jones – took part in the concert.

A 28-page programme was produced for the event and the choir are extremely grateful to the sponsors of the concert – Redrow Homes and Legal & General Assurance – and to all the advertisers whose generosity made the production of such a programme possible.

ABOVE:
Gavin Davies (baritone soloist) and his accompanist Simon Phillippo (on left) being presented with gifts by the choir chairman, Gwyn Thomas.

As supporters of the choir know, the annual concert is the only concert in the year from which the choir derive funds to help pay for their music and subsidise travel to appropriate charities.

They are also grateful to those organisations who acted as ticket offices – Sorrento, David Barnes Dry Cleaners and the Cowbridge Leisure Centre in Cowbridge; Gwyneth J Morgan, Optometrist, in Llantwit Major; and the Charity Shop in Pontyclun.

They are already looking forward to an equally good attendance for their 42nd annual concert in Cowbridge Leisure Centre in May 2012!

BOB WHITAKER

Pub row left Llantwit man with broken jaw

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A MEMBER of the parachute regiment stationed at St Athan attacked a pub customer after he was provoked, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Phillip Riley (23) said the customer, Lee Tracey, an electrician of Llantwit Major, turned to him in the White Lion Pub in Llantwit Major and said: "*Go to Afghanistan and get yourself killed*".

With that, Riley said, he lost control and threw a single punch.

Riley, who was said to have an exemplary service record and is a member of One Para, admitted a charge of wounding.

He was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay his victim compensation of £6,000.

Judge Stephen Hopkins said both men had been "blind drunk".

He said the Parachute Regiment clearly did not want to lose Riley, who had received an active service award when in Afghanistan.

The judge said: "There was no premeditation, just one punch and the incident was short-lived.

He described Riley as "a valuable asset to the country."

Prosecutor John Probert said the two men had been in the pub on January 23 and both were drunk. The two encountered one another and there was eye contact.

Mr Tracey was struck a single blow, fell to the floor and remembered nothing else.

The incident was captured on CCTV and showed Mr Tracey being knocked off his feet.

No formal complaint was made but the police were called in when it was discovered that Mr Tracey had suffered a broken jaw. He underwent an operation at Morriston Hospital and plates were inserted.

Riley later told the police that Mr Tracey was abusive towards him, became jealous when he spoke to two girls, and shouted "*Go to Afghanistan and get yourself killed*".

Riley, who had no previous convictions and who boxes for the Army and plays rugby for Llantwit Major, said he was ashamed.

His counsel, Adam Sharpe, said he was contrite and co-operative.

"He was generally disgusted by his thuggish behaviour.

"He reacted because derogatory remarks were made to him. His behaviour was completely out of character."

He said he had been in the parachute regiment for three years, served in Afghanistan and was regarded as a professional soldier.

Mr Sharpe added: "He realises he has brought disgrace on his regiment. He was banned from any pub in Llantwit Major and there will be an internal disciplinary procedure."

Captain John Martin of One Para described him as: "Enthusiastic, loyal and committed."

Men will be on the Run for a very good cause!

(Continued from page 1)

"Tremendous research is going on at the University Hospital of Wales at the Heath at the moment, and that is funded by people giving.

"I know from annual reports that 89p in the pound raised by people goes directly to research which is a huge proportion."

Anne originally became a supporter of the charity for a special reason.

"About 27 or 28 years ago, when I'd just moved into Llanblethian, a friend of mine died of cervical cancer at the age of 38."

Since the committee began publicising 'Men on the Run' a couple of weeks ago it has received a very encouraging response. One man who has pledged to take part is former Welsh rugby international Rhys Williams. The committee hope there will be many more participants over the next few weeks!

The registration fee is £10 and people are asked to seek sponsorship from family, friends or perhaps a business. To obtain a free pack call Anne on 01446 774062 or email her on Annebirt@hotmail.co.uk.

Anne added: "The committee would also welcome the help of people locally who would like to get involved in fundraising with us on a regular basis." *Report by* ***TIM CHAPMAN***

NEWS IN BRIEF

A CAR boot sale will be held on Sunday, May 22 at the car park in Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Aberthin Road, Cowbridge from 9am.

Big Screen

BIG SCREEN's next presentation is Black Swan (Cert 15) which will be shown on Thursday, May 26, at 7.30pm, in the Town Hall.

It stars Natalie Portman, who won an Oscar for her performance, Mila Kunis and Vincent Cassel. A ballet dancer wins the lead in Swan Lake and is perfect for the role of the delicate White Swan - Princess Odette - but slowly loses her mind as she becomes more and more like Odile, the Black Swan.

Doors open at 7.10pm. Tickets £3 (available in advance from Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

Gardening club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be a talk on '40 years developing my garden' by Gareth Davies from Brecon.

Meetings as usual in the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday, May 26. New members welcome.

'Top back doctor' joins Vale Healthcare team

NEW ZEALANDER Garry Trainer DOABAc, who was named as 'Britain's top back doctor' by The Times earlier this year has joined the team of top specialists and therapists at Vale Healthcare.

He has opened a complementary natural back and neck pain clinic using his unique combination of osteopathy, acupuncture and massage.

Vale Healthcare's Vale Hospital is located in 3.4 acres of rural parkland at Hensol and he joins highly experienced consultants and therapists, many of whom treat key sports teams across Wales, including the Ospreys and Cardiff City.

Mr Trainer commented: I am excited and delighted to be joining such a centre of clinical excellence as Vale Healthcare. The facilities are some of the best I've ever seen – equal to those in Harley Street, where I worked for more than 10 years."

His clinic takes place at The Vale Hospital on Fridays at 11am-4.30pm. To book an appointment, telephone 029 2083 6714.

Breast cancer self-help group

LADIES of the LIFT Group and friends have recently enjoyed an evening at the ballet *Alice in Cardiff*, followed by a guided walk and talk on the flora and fauna of Porthkerry park.

Voluntary organisation LIFT (Life Is For Today) is a self help group for those affected by breast cancer who meet in Cowbridge to offer support and friendship for people in the Vale.

On alternate Wednesdays there are relaxation therapies such as Reiki, reflexology and Indian head massage, from 10am-1pm

On other Wednesdays in the month there are outings or speakers, from 2pm-4pm.

The next LIFT group meeting will be in Cowbridge on Wednesday, May 25, between 10am-1pm for relaxation therapies.

Contact Jan on 01446 774575 or Anne on 01446 772843 for further information.

End of an era for competition that has fostered community spirit in the Vale

THE organisation behind the Best Kept Village competition in the Vale has reached the end of an era, with the retirement of two key members.

The Best Kept Village (BKV) competition has been going for almost 60 years, having been created in the coronation year of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

The chairman of the management committee, Basil Watkins, is stepping down after being involved in the event since 1964, while the secretary, Richard Skinner, is also leaving his post because he is moving away from the Vale.

As a result, the committee is looking for a new chairman and secretary – and Mr Watkins feels that the time is right to bring in new blood on the committee as well.

He told The GEM that he had enjoyed his 47 years involvement with the BKV immensely.

He said: "It all started when my wife Eileen and I moved to Pendoylan in 1964, and we were invited to join in preparing the village.

"It was a wonderful way of getting to know our new neighbours, and we would put an evening's work in and end up in the Red Lion afterwards!"

They moved to the village at the right time, because Pendoylan was the Tiger Woods of its era, winning the Vale title eight times in 10 years, and going on to take the Welsh title twice.

The village retains its place as the village that has won most often to this day – a total of 15 times

Mr Watkins recalled: "Stan Hughes, the school's headteacher, personally took responsibility for the bank opposite the school, and the Red Lion landlord Derek Walters ensured the pub was in tip top condition.

"The utility company was persuaded to bury underground dozens of cables that had been attached to a telegraph pole, and the brewery took down a particularly garish sign.

"Pupils on school picnics would pick up litter so that teachers would come back with rubbish stuffed in their wellies, and there was even a story, probably apocryphal, of when Olive Jenkins, the school cleaner, picked up a cigarette butt outside the pub and tucked it in her apron, and a customer came over and offered her a whole one!"

In time, Basil moved on to the management committee, and then he became chairman, and he is proud of the way the competition has developed,

A series of innovations has, he believes, increased the contribution the BKV makes to community spirit.

The first change was to take the annual presentation out on the road, with each year's winner hosting the next year's event – rather like the Eurovision Song Contest.

Previously, it had been held every year in the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge, but the new system, Mr Watkins feels, increases the sense of community participation.

If the village lacks a suitable venue, then the defending champions sponsor the evening in a nearby village.

The second big change introduced by the management committee has been to involve primary schools in the Vale, encouraging pupils to start their own gardens and look after their school grounds.

This has demonstrably been a success, with more than 24 schools now involved in the BKV. Mr Watkins said: "The enthusiasm shown has been such that we have had to institute a separate presentation night, because there was so much to celebrate in recognising the different projects.

"We had great support last year from Dyffryn Gardens, where the staff made the pupils feel special by putting on their own display and by inviting the pupils to make their own scarecrows and take them home afterwards."

The third innovation was to offer villages the chance of highlighting a'special feature'. Mr Watkins said: "For some villages, this has been a 'taster' to see if they can put together a full entry.

"However, it has the definite bonus of motivating groups of residents to tackle a local eyesore or neglected area and transform it into something special."

A prime example of this was the Church Row gardens and stream at Pendoylan, where a row of five thatched cottages were built in 1770. The gardens and stream were overgrown and in a poor state.

Basil Watkins said: "Now, under the guidance of Lily and Cecil Matthews and Ian Morrison, the whole place has been transformed into a beautiful area with gardens for all seasons."

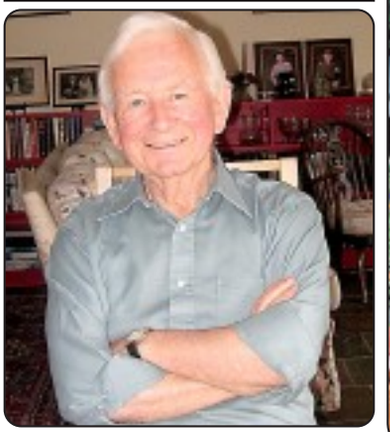
Similarly, in Wick a neglected area of the churchyard was transformed into a nature reserve as part of a school project.

The BKV competition has always been grateful for sponsors, and the two main sponsors are Cemex UK Ltd, who operate Wenvoe Quarry, and the Vale Council.

The event also gets much-appreciated support from Dyffryn Gardens, and local town and community councils.

A new sponsor this year is Ffos Las racecourse,

by PHILIP IRWIN



***BASIL WATKINS** – stepping down.*

which is offering a free day's racing and a meal for a party of four as a fundraising exercise.

All the sponsorship income, last year some £2,300, goes on prizes: a cup, a sign on the village green, and a plaque on the village hall for the winners.

The villages that enter are visited by a team from the BKV committee, who draw up a short list, and then the matter is in the hands of the judge.

In recent years, Basil Watkins' task has been to chauffeur the judge around the short-listed villages, and so far a series of Lord Lieutenants and High Sheriffs, and also their deputies, have handled the hot potato of passing judgement – as feelings can sometimes run high!

This year, the judge will be Dan Clayton Jones, chairman of the Cowbridge Physic Garden.

Basil Watkins still loves the BKV competition, and his decision to stand down has been forced on him with the onset of macular degeneration which means he has progressively deteriorating eyesight.

Last year he gave up driving. As he noted, a judge who can't see very well is not likely to receive much credulity with the contestants!

Basil said: "I have very much enjoyed my time with the competition and have found it most rewarding.

"It was a tremendous pleasure witnessing the enthusiasm of the villagers taking part. Additionally, it has been responsible for quite a number of physical improvements, such as getting rid of garish signs and persuading pub owners and councils to refurbish the exterior of their premises."

He added; "I will, of course, be delighted to work with a new chairman to help ease him or her into the post.

"Similarly, I will make myself available to anyone who comes forward to get involved with the management committee.

"If you love the Vale and want to help retain its rural character and ancient traditions, then you will find it very rewarding."

Any enquiries about the posts of chairman, secretary and committee members should be made to Mr Richard Skinner, 2 The Meadow, Ystradowen, CF71 7TR.

Another view of the Church Row project.

Church Row, Pendoylan, was an impressive special feature.

RIGHT:
Proud winners of the primary school section – St Brides Major C in W School.

ABOVE:
Llanmaes was a recent winner.

GAVIN AND STACEY RUN FOR CHARITY

GAVIN and Stacey fan Richard Kell will run from Billericay to Barry on May 27–30 in aid of Help for Heroes.

He will set off from the home town of TV character Gavin, in Billericay, Essex, and end at Stacey's home town of Barry.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale, will run with Mr Kell through the Vale to Barry.

Mr Kell, from Hertfordshire, ran 26 marathons last year and said it would take about four days to complete the distance. He has raised £20,000 so far and hopes that other dignatories will join him along the 200-mile route.

John Baron, MP for Basildon and Billericay, will fire a starting pistol to start the charity run from Billericay.

Mr Cairns explained: "As the MP for the Vale of Glamorgan, I thought it my responsibility to escort Richard around the key TV location sites.

"We'll run past Gavin's home, filmed in the village of Dinas Powys, to Trinity Street in Barry where Stacey and Uncle Bryn live. But I should add that we'll be running down Trinity Street, as it is the steepest hill in Barry!"

Art Society's golden jubilee!

THE Cowbridge Art Society will end its celebration of its Golden Jubilee year with a buffet tea-party at the Bear Hotel on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 25.

The occasion not only signals the end of a significant year, but also presents the results of two of the aims set by the society to mark their 50th year.

Member Andy Lloyd will announce the launch of the society's new website, www.cowbridgeartsociety.com. The site will provide information about the society and allow members to keep abreast of the latest happenings, and will allow members to use the site to display and sell their pictures.

Member John Phillips will introduce his book *Cowbridge Art Society: A Historical Commentary 1960–2010.*

The writer attempts to trace the roots of the society and its journey through 50 years and he seeks answers to the questions: who were the founder members and how many were there and from where did the society spring?

The book contains nine chapters extending over 115 pages, 50 of which are profusely illustrated in colour and costs £25 plus postage and packing (enquiries to 01446 775735 or 01446 772287).

Today (Thursday) the society holds it annual general meeting at 7pm in the Old Hall, Cowbridge.

On Thursday, May 26, there will be a critique of members' work by Adrian Metcalfe at 7pm in the annexe of the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge.

'Beware metal thieves' police warn residents

POLICE have issued a warning about domestic metal thefts in the Bridgend and Vale area.

There has been an increase in metal thefts, particularly of lead from porches and house extensions and other buildings. Deborah Elward, crime reduction tactical advisor for Bridgend, reported:

"Metal is being stolen in various forms from high voltage copper cables, lead from schools and churches to manhole covers and railway signalling cable.

"Metal thieves will literally steal anything in order to sell it on for cash. We are seeing an increase in lead being stolen from domestic properties, which is something we are trying to raise awareness of.

"We are advising residents to try and make it as difficult as possible for metal thieves and to remove the opportunity for them to steal."

£412 raised for Bridgend disabled riding group

FOR the past year, Bridgend County Riding for the Disabled group has been Bridgend Sainsbury's nominated local charity, with several events in the store that raised more than £3,000 for the group.

This has enabled it to continue efforts to teach riding to local children with disabilities at Bridgend College's Pencoed campus.

On Tuesday, May 10, Clive Roberts, chairman, and Liz Worthington, a trustee, met Sainsbury's store manager, Mr Simon Lean, who presented them (on behalf of the store) with cheques totalling £412.44.

Barry man is nominated for 'Leading Wales' award

CLIVE THOMAS

A BUSINESSMAN from Barry has beaten stiff competition from more than 100 entries to make it through to the final of this year's Leading Wales awards.

Clive Thomas, is managing partner at Welsh solicitors Watkins and Gunn, and also acts as membership secretary for Barry RFC in his spare time.

He has been nominated in the 'leadership in the private sector' category, for his contribution to the firm's continued success.

Barbara Chidgey, spokesperson for the Leading Wales awards, said: "This year we had a fantastic response from across all businesses and communities in Wales and very many outstanding entries. It has been a very difficult decision process but we are confident we have some fantastic examples of leadership from all over Wales."

Clive was nominated by Helen Barry, a colleague at Watkins and Gunn.

The winners are being announced at a ceremony in the Hilton, Cardiff, today (Thursday May 19).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D670.

- **£2,000:** 254610.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 197050, 173531, 272766, 630666, 740394, 439430, 723810, 783151, 801911, 259600, 726144, 440907, 267028, 812352, 623293, 653507, 772016, 336281, 444740, 854423.
- **£5:** 727594, 242183, 840788, 222094, 219028, 152587, 783764, 162977, 738631, 318288, 685358, 823751, 725997, 269392, 787872, 454025, 389735, 163626, 611799, 863557, 624825, 728424, 485555, 106895, 890897, 398707, 572235, 830842, 236136, 821202, 515639, 165276, 129089, 763552, 490346, 710532, 536012, 743358, 556276, 661091, 655105, 463944, 376899, 570768, 270331, 236452, 709523, 896846, 412218, 444609, 928025, 149421, 481519, 759048, 861511, 410807, 820520, 122330, 342994, 75981.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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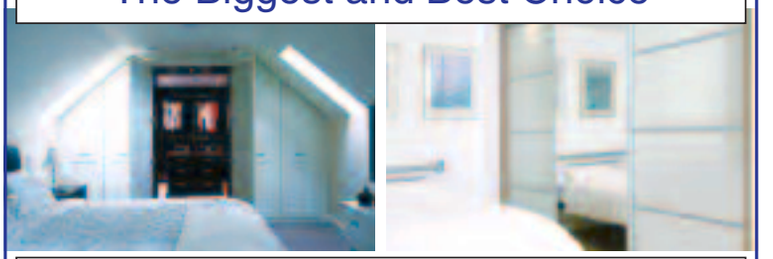

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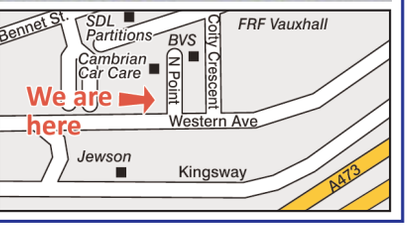

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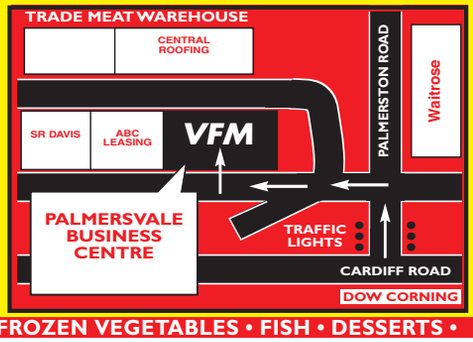

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Llandow waste plant application is pulled

A PLANNING application for a large recycling depot in Llandow has been withdrawn.

The Vale Council's planning department has confirmed that the agent for the proposed change of use for the site on Sutton Road withdrew the application on May 5.

Vale MP Alun Cairns has said that he will continue to support Llandow Community Council's campaign to oppose waste management planning applications for the area.

Three separate planning applications had been submitted by private companies to the Vale of Glamorgan Council towards the end of 2010.

Mr Cairns said: "The application for Sutton Road was the largest of the applications, though the smaller applications for the other sites have received planning approval.

He had worked with the community to lodge their complaints and concerns with the planning department, and contributed to the video which residents had produced to present the huge response and concern expressed by residents and members of the Llandow Community Council regarding the proposed developments.

"I have no doubt that the concerns raised at the public meeting in Llysworney, and the strong opposition by the local Community Council, residents and business' has been a significant factor in this application being withdrawn," he added.

'Flytippers will be prosecuted'

A recent case of flytipping in Llantwit Major sparked outrage from local residents – someone had dumped rubbish from a bathroom renovation on a grass verge.

The Vale Council points out that there are very stiff penalties for people who deface the local environment.

Clifford Parish, the operational manager for waste management and cleansing, explained: "Flytipping is an anti-social and criminal activity that the council takes very seriously.

"Anyone found carrying out this illegal act will be prosecuted by the council.

"The penalties for those guilty of committing this offence range from a fixed penalty notice of £75 to fines of £20,000 – and possible six months imprisonment.

"Perhaps this will make criminals think twice prior to depositing their rubbish illegally again."

If people witness instances of flytipping they can contact waste management and cleansing enforcement officers on 01446 700111.

Mr Parish added: "All information will be treated with the utmost confidence."

National Smile Month

16 MAY - 16 JUNE 2010

British Dental Health Foundation

The 'Smile Factor' can make a such a massive difference to your life...

NATIONAL SMILE MONTH runs from May 15 to June 15, and British Dental Health Foundation, a leading UK charity, uses it to promote better oral health.

A spokesman explained: "We want people to look after their teeth and maintain them for life.

"This year we have chosen the 'Smile Factor' as our campaign theme.

"Healthy teeth improve the quality of a person's life and a simple smile has the energy to convey some of our strongest emotions.

"It also has the ability to influence the success of our relationships and careers.

"It is no coincidence that a confident smile is associated with images of people we see every day considered to have that special 'X-Factor'."

Some people don't have the confidence to smile because they are not happy or are self-conscious about their teeth.

The spokesman pointed out: "Other people are held back by poor oral well-being and its impact on their general health. At the British Dental Health Foundation, we want to put the smile back on people's faces and help them display their full personalities with our 'Smile Factor' campaign."

National Smile Month is encouraging schools to have 'fun days' for pupils at which they can learn important lessons in caring for their teeth.

The charity also has bright, eye-catching posters which can underline some of the most important campaign messages.

'Smile Month' encourages everyone to brush their teeth for the recommended two minutes, twice a day; and, of course, to make regular visits to the dentist.

The campaign also encourages dental practices to run competitions offering a free consultation as a prize.

Visit www. smilemonth.org or telephone 01788 546365.

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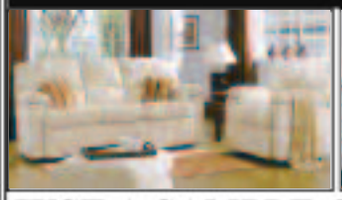

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News in and out of class at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg

Spelling Bee De Cymru.

THE four winners of the year-7 French Spelling Bee competition from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg recently went to Ysgol Cwrt Sart near Neath to take part in the south Wales finals.

Lois Aled, Nia Brown, Nia Fenn and Terry James all did superbly, but only Lois went through to the final round.

After a 'sudden death round', Lois finished second out of all the contestants, and as a result, will go forward to the Welsh final, where she will be among the top eight in the whole of Wales. We wish her the very best for the final in July!

The Spelling Bee four.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to head boy Jacob Ellis, who has been chosen as a member of the National Youth Theatre of Wales.

Following a rigorous round of auditions and workshops, Jacob was talent spotted for his acting and writing ability. He will spend several weeks with the company during the summer and will tour with a production during September.

British champion

WE are delighted to celebrate the fantastic news that year-8 pupil Ffion Byrne brought back the title of British Tumble Champion 2011 to Bro Morgannwg and Wales, following the British Schools Tumbling Finals in Stoke on Trent on May 7.

MT

Head boy, Jacob Ellis.

Ffion Bryne.

LATEST NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

HOME VIDEO BASICS!

THERE are three things to remember about home video: time, time, and time. When you have that right you can worry about not chopping off peoples, heads and feet.

Mike J has considerable experience in making video recordings. He has shed the worst habits of beginners and shared his thoughts with the club members.

His equipment is more up-market than the family video camera, but he was emphatic that the entertainment value of the results depends on the operator as much as the kit.

Practice using your camera on something unimportant and view the results.

It is a safe guess that your first attempts will be dreadful – probably because you didn't take your time, didn't concentrate on keeping still and didn't take enough footage.

It is usual to start with a wide view to set the context of what follows. It is important to hold the view long enough for the audience to absorb it.

This is the first timing advice. Hold all your shots for much longer than you expect to need them. Mike suggests at least an extra 30 seconds.

You can edit them to be shorter in due course. You will not be able to edit them to be longer!

Take far more than you will need, in the number of shots and their duration.

From the general view, you will want to show some aspects in detail. For this you can zoom in.

The second time advice is: zoom slowly or can be disconcerting to watch.

The same applies to zooming out again. Again, hold the shot longer that you expect to need.

Sweeping the camera sideways, (panning), needs to be done slowly and smoothly. You cope with turning your head quite quickly, but doing it with the camera make the result unwatchable.

The more you are zoomed-in the slower the panning, if at all. That's another timing constraint. If possible, hold the shots to be too long.

When changing location, say from outside to inside; switch off the camera, but leave those vital extra times at the start and finish of each shot.

There are software video-editing packages of varying degrees of sophistication. Most will allow you to edit you efforts without difficulty, both for picture and for sound.

To make the end result attractive it is likely that you will reduce the time from, say an hour of video to say 15 to 20 minutes of finished product.

This will include the lead-in Titles and any end credits.

The extra footage on the shots will make life much easier to edit transitions from one scene to another, whether they cross-fade, wipe across the screen or look like pages being turned.

The camera never lies? Now the truth can be subject to your imagination and editing skills.

We next meet on Tuesday, May 24 at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

Steve will be looking at transferring vinyl LPs and Tapes to digital. Visitors welcome. Enquiries on 02920 708439.

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WELCOME to The GEM's special feature on planning the perfect home – and how to make your ideas a reality!

On this and the following two pages, you will find experts in many of the areas that the homeowner has to consider when making big plans.

Anyone can have an idea. What is important is having access to the expertise that can make that idea a reality.

Whether your plans concern the living room, bathroom, kitchen, garden, or perhaps a whole new extension or conservatory, take some time to check out the goods or services highlighted here!

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For a PICTURE PERFECT home

The ancient Chinese art that offers you harmony and good fortune...

'Use powerful lines of energy in your home and keep in harmony with nature'

YOU may have planned the perfect home, and it may match up to your personal taste and requirements, but does it make the gods happy?

It might be time to check with a Feng Shui master.

Followers of this ancient Chinese art of placement believe that the arrangement of your home can foster good fortune but what exactly is involved?

The theory behind Feng Shui is that if you arrange your home in such a way that the rooms and objects inside them are in harmony with nature, then the earth's powerful lines of energy, called chi, will run smoothly and bring good fortune to the occupants. This is considered to be auspicious.

By contrast, if you position things in the wrong, or inauspicious, place, you risk blocking those energy lines, or worse, sending all the positive energy straight out again.

Feng Shui – it translates literally as wind and water – is a huge subject. But to enhance the energy lines in your home, you could consider the following:

ENTRANCE HALL.

• Keep it clear. A cluttered home reflects a muddled mind.

• Use a bright light to attract good energy into your home.

• Take care that a mirror doesn't reflect the door – all your good energy could bounce right out of the house.

LIVING ROOM.

• Encourage good Feng Shui by arranging chairs within a regular hexagonal shape around a coffee table. Bad positioning would be an L shape, with seats in front of tall furniture.

• No sofas or chairs should have their backs to the door.

• Open doors onto an empty space, not in front of furniture, otherwise the flow of energy into the room will be blocked.

KITCHEN.

• Remove any clutter. In fact, all you should do in this room is cook.

• It should only have one door, in order to help the cook be more peaceful and relaxed. An ideal kitchen faces southeast.

• The most harmonious place for the cooker is on an island, with limited space behind, to prevent people walking behind the chef.

• Knives send out negative energy, so keep them out of sight to defuse arguments.

DINING ROOM.

• Watch where you sit; a dining chair with bars on the back creates the outline of a poison arrow and means bad luck.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

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For a PICTURE PERFECT home

In the ideal home, everything must be in balance *according to Feng Shui*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

• An ideal room needs to be a regular shape, preferably square. If your dining room has protruding corners – for example, a chimney that's been blocked up – disguise the corners with large plants.

• Hang a large wall mirror. The food will be doubled on the table (which would be created by the mirror's reflection) but in reality, of couse, there will be plenty for everyone.

BEDROOM

• Point your head south, but don't let the foot of the bed face the door. The bed should be as far from the door as possible, to permit the free flow of energy into the room.

• Everything in Feng Shui must balance. Bedrooms should have matching bedside tables and lamps, even if you are single.

• Never have computer or exercising equipment in your bedroom. This is a place for regeneration.

• Curtains are more effective than blinds.

WORKROOM

• Choose a northeast-facing room or one towards the front of the house.

• Use a wooden desk – it should be round if your job is creative, or square with rounded corners if you deal with figures. Square corners mean money could slip off the desk.

• Keep fresh red flowers to absorb negativity.

• Hang up pictures of your goals, not family photos.

TOILETS

• These are generally not good in Feng Shui, because you can inadvertently flush the good things from your life. In ancient China, toilets were kept outside the house. However, the best you can do today is keep the door shut and close the toilet lid, to stop wealth from draining away.

COLOURS IN THE HOME

• Paint walls or add ornaments to create the right atmosphere.

• Red: the most auspicious colour. It's linked to happiness, passion and growth (too much may make you hyperactive).

• Yellow: patience and wisdom.

• Orange: creativity, teamwork, and healing.

• Pink: love and romance.

• Black: money and power (use sparingly).

• Brown: use sparingly, it may cause you to move more slowly.

• Purple: high ideals and loyalty. A good colour.

• Blue: kindness and, for business, the colour of reliability.

Home secrets of a DIY guru

HOW do you make a big difference to a room with a comparatively small job?

DIY guru Julia Gray knows the answer – and it is skirting boards!

Julia writes: If you're just doing the skirting boards, you'll be amazed by what a difference revamping them can make to the whole room, and here are a few tips:

• It's essential to sand thoroughly before painting your skirting boards.

Use an electric sander on the flat parts and sandpaper where the sander can't reach. Clean the wood thoroughly after sanding.

• If your skirting boards are in poor condition, scrape and sand off any chipped, flaking or cracked paint and fill the repairs with flexible wood filler.

• If you're painting over bare wood, apply a couple of coats of knotting solution to the knots first to seal them and stop the resin in them from ruining your paintwork.

• Use masking tape to protect your walls and floor when painting your skirting boards, but don''t leave it on too long because it can form a seal with the dry paint and tear the paint when removed.

The safest option is to remove and reapply the masking tape between coats and to use low-tack masking tape.

Ask the expert...

***Q**: What's the best sort of paint to use on my skirting boards?*

A: I always recommend water-based quick-drying wood paint – because it's nice to use, easy to clean off things it shouldn't be on, and takes very little time to dry, although you usually need to do quite a few coats.

In my opinion, nothing beats white skirting boards and the good thing about white water-based wood paint is that it doesn't yellow over time, unlike oil-based alternatives.

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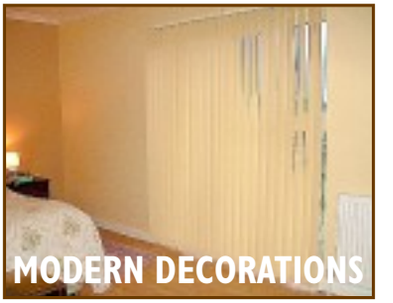
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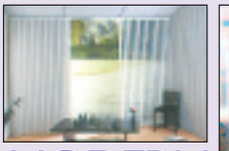

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Out and About with The GEM

Spring fayre

THE Children's Society is holding its annual Spring Fayre on Saturday, June 4 at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, 10am-12noon.

A spokeswoman said: "There will be home-made cakes, savouries, preserves, plants, books, mystery parcels and other items, and an excellent raffle."

Admission is 50p, including refreshments.

Cancer support

ON Saturday, May 28, St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Barry, will hold a charity event for Cancer Research Wales.

There will be a selection of stalls; face painting; raffle with grand prizes; plus tea, coffee and cakes available .

£1 entrance per family – no matter how many of you there are!

'EXPLORE AND MORE'

***GAVIN AND STACEY* star Ifan Huw Dafydd is backing a new initiative 'Explore & More' to encourage more people to explore the heritage on their doorstep in the Vale.**

Local people are being invited to Dyffryn House and Gardens on Saturday (May 21) between 10am and 4pm, to be among the first to try out the new interactive kiosks created as part of the initiative featuring guides to nearby attractions, and they can watch short films starring the actor.

There will be reduced entry prices of £2 for adults and £1 for children on the day.

Golden oldies

AGE Concern Cardiff and the Vale and Grenville Jones of the Golden Oldies charity, are planning to form the first Goldies group in Wales, and are organising a 'taster session'.

The session takes place on July 27 from 10am-12 noon at The Old Treli Library, Bishopston Road, Ely.

For further details, telephone 02920 578 372.

CRAFTY TEA PARTY FOR MARIE CURIE

THE Blooming Great Tea Party season is almost upon us and a children's nursery is planning to hold one with a difference!

Fun Foundations Day Nursery in Cowbridge is holding a Crafty Tea Party on Saturday, July 30, in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care.

There will be unique gifts galore (including jewellery, scarves, vintage goods and individual baby goods), along with super fun activities for the children.

The tea room will be providing tea and cakes for the adults and children to enjoy.

A spokesperson said: "Marie Curie nurses do such a wonderful job and make such a huge difference to the lives of terminally ill patients and their families. They deserve and need our support and this is a way in which you can help.

"Come and pay us a visit on July 30 at 11am – 3pm. We are based at Vale Forge, North Road, Cowbridge."

Telephone 01446 771117/www.funfoundationsdaynursery.co.uk.

Young musicians line up with leading soprano at St Nicholas

ON May 9, Lisa Medi Williams from Cowbridge, and Lois Aled and Joseph Keenan, both residents of Penarth, along with Rhydian Jenkins of Maesteg, revelled in the opportunity to perform alongside international soprano Rebecca Evans.

Lisa, Lois and Rhydian sang, while Joseph played the saxophone.

The evening was in aid of Music in the Vale, a charitable organisation that holds an annual competition and provides all its finalists with performance opportunities.

This year's competition will be held over the weekend of November 26–27 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

More than 100 people attended the event, which was held at Coedarhydyglyn, near St Nicholas, the family home of Annabelle and Rhodri Traherne. **EH**

Stamp winners

THE winners of our wizards and animals stamp sets were:

A King, Bridgend; Stephen Huxter, Barry; Margaret Price, Nottage; Mrs E A Thomas, Penarth; Lyndon Thomas, Pyle; Mrs T Robinson, Dinas Powys; Mrs P G Huish, Cowbridge; Jenny Lewis, Broadlands; Martin Tandy, Penarth; Brian Watkins, Pontycymmer; Mrs Hiscock, Cowbridge; Mrs G R Williams, Pyle; R J Nottage, Bonvilston; George Jeffery,ick; J Mountford, Barry; Mr Marsh, Llantwit Major; David Lewis, St Brides Major; Mrs Batten, Llantwit Major; Rosie Wodven, Rhoose; J Clease, Llantwit Major.

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Urban alien invasion film blends in gags with the scary bits...

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

GIVEN the number of alien films that have hit cinemas, it is easy to wonder just what our otherworldly visitors would actually think if they landed here.

Imagine, then, if their invasion plans found them landing in a particularly rough London council estate, where the locals would be just as intimidating, if not more, than whatever came off the spaceship.

That is the premise for Joe Cornish's directorial debut, *Attack The Block,* which sees a teenage gang attempt to defend their area from invading aliens – but will the teenagers' street smarts, BMX bikes and mobile phones be enough of a match for these visitors?

With the success of the likes of *Shaun of the Dead*, it appears British film makers have got something of a touch for crafting low budget comedy shockers (if we ignore the awful *Lesbian Vampire Killers*).

Attack The Block is a film that works in a similar vein as *Shaun*… yet is played with an even eye for laughs, along with scares and social commentary, something that works incredibly well, even if the latter element seems a little too tacked on.

Perhaps best known for his comedy work with partner in crime Adam Buxton, Joe Cornish's move from small screen laughs to big screen alien invasion picture is one skillfully negotiated.

The pair's comedy has always been shot through with a knowing wink at the world of cinema (just YouTube 'adam joe toy movie' for evidence), but Cornish's film is more than just simply an irreverent take on a much loved genre.

Instead, Cornish plays the film with a straight bat, capturing as realistic a take as you can of an alien invasion taking place within a tough council block, and the script, though comedic, also has its fair share of drama.

He shows a keen knowledge of the science fiction that has played its part in inspiring him, with his shot choices having the air of the likes of John Carpenter and early Spielberg, wringing tension from his location – and shooting in a stylised but practical manner, while the effects are well marshalled, despite their obvious lack of funding.

His emphasis on making the 'heroes' of the film a gang of hoodie-wearing youths may smack of liberal thinking, while his desire to see them redeemed by their fightback against the alien invasion could be considered to be ill thought of, particularly on the basis of their actions in the early part of the film.

However, if you can ignore the mixed messages (it's OK to carry a knife as long as you're 'protecting' yourself apparently) then you can revel in the humour as these slang-speaking teenagers attempt to protect their block.

The largely first-time cast deliver solid turns, with experienced heads Jodie Whittaker, Nick Frost and Luke Treadaway shoring up the performances.

The film hardly lingers longer than it has to, and the 88-minute running time, while spritely and lending the film an urgent air, does slightly short-change the characters and their reasons for the life they lead. (Cornish only briefly touches on the lead character of Moses and his background).

It means his urge to paint them in a more saintly light doesn't have the depth to justify it. However, on the most basic level, *Attack The Block* is a dark comedic film that manages to successfully blend frights with gags and, given his inexperience, marks out Joe Cornish as a talent to certainly keep an eye on.

VERDICT: A stellar first outing for writer/director Joe Cornish, *Attack The Block* comes packed with laughs but is backed up with a real desire to create a credible alien film.

Making light of the small budget and the largely first-time cast, there is much to recommend this entertaining, and uniquely British, take on a staple genre. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Shaun of the Dead, Mars Attacks!, Men In Black.*

An evening with Rhodri

RHODRI MORGAN, one of Wales' most distinguished politicians, will talk about life at the coalface of Welsh and British politics in Dinas Powys at the end of the month.

Part of the fundraising campaign for the 2012 National Eisteddfod of Wales taking place in the Vale next year, the former First Minister will share his experiences of ten years at the top of politics in Wales.

Born in Cardiff, Rhodri Morgan was educated at Whitchurch Grammar School, before gaining degrees at the universities of Oxford and Harvard. Elected to Parliament in 1987, he served the Cardiff West constituency for 14 years, before retiring from the House of Commons, to focus his political energies on the newly-formed National Assembly for Wales.

When he announced his retirement from the leadership of Welsh Labour on his 70th birthday, Rhodri Morgan enjoyed public approval ratings of 65 per cent, making him one of the most popular leaders in recent political history.

He is married to Julie Morgan – newly-elected Assembly Member for Cardiff North – and has two daughters and a son.

This event follows the success of April's family treasure hunt, organised by Gwenllian Grigg and Monika Morgans, which raised nearly £100 for the Dinas Powys Eisteddfod Appeal.

• An Evening with Rhodri Morgan is at 7.30pm, on May 26 in Lee Hall, Dinas Powys.

Tickets available from the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, or call 02920 513114.

What's on & Where?

Flower arranging talk

ON May 25, the Penarth Flower Arrangement Club is holding a demonstration evening starting at 7.30 pm.

Toni Smith from Wadborough, Worcestershire has a theme, 'Inspirations'.

It takes place at the Masonic Hall on Stanwell Road, Penarth.

For enquiries, call Ann Dobbins on 02920 703605.

Llancarfan AGM

THE annual general meeting of Llancarfan and district community association takes place on May 25, at 7.30pm, in Llancarfan Community Hall. Everyone welcome.

Friendship Tree

ART4U presents The Friendship Tree acoustic music outdoor concert, featuring local musicians, Hank Hillman, Andy Johnson, The Amber Hour, Danielle Nicholls and All Saints School Choir on May 29 in the Knap Lake and gardens at 2.30pm–7.30pm.

Free entry; donations warmly appreciated. Weather permitting.

Centenary open day

LLANGAN Primary School is celebrating its centenary with a special 'Open' Day on July 13, to which all past members of staff, governors, parents and children are invited. A special service will be held in the school hall at 10am and the centenary garden and mural officially opened.

Telephone 01446 772403 or e-mail llanganps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit the website www.llangan-primaryschool.ik.org.

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Vale MP on board 'microbus'

Hafal's Sian Davies, Rikki Withers and team are joined by Alun Cairns MP.

VALE MP Alun Cairns joined the 'Taking the Wheel' team, at King's Square in Barry, to support a campaign to empower mental health service users to take more control of their lives and the services they receive.

The event featured Hafal's VW microbus, where visitors could literally 'take the wheel' in a camper van rally simulator.

Service-user led organisations Hafal and MDF the Bipolar Organisation Cymru, are working in partnership with the Mental Health Foundation to support the campaign.

Mr Cairns MP said he was keen to hear about issues faced in provision for those suffering from mental health illness and their carers.

He commented: "The new Mental Health Measure means that for people who suffer from mental health illness should be able to make choices about the care and treatment they receive."

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS :

From the ford of the rustling waters and up to holly ridge

FOUR ramblers joined Val Hartrey for an historic walk from Quakers Yard, whose early name was Rhyd y Grug or by translation, the ford of the rustling waters - probably because it was an easy spot to cross the River Taff.

During the 17th century, dissenters from the King's religion were persecuted, but Baptists and Quakers, the latter being very mistrusted by the community, began worshipping at the nearby Berthlwyd Farm and later the Quakers broke away completely to establish their own community, even opening their own burial ground in the village.

In lovely sunshine, the group joined part of the Taff Trail passing Edwardsville, a small urban area named after Edmund Edwards, businessman and proprietor of the Great Western Hotel.

They walked over the original stone sleepers where Richard Trevithick ran the first ever steam and passenger locomotive in 1804.

Next they reached the Goetre Coed Viaduct opened in 1841, standing at 90-feet with 6-spans crossing the valley and built by the great Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

The high stone walls holding the high embankment of the railway line further along were covered in bright green lichen and a stop for morning refreshments was taken at the old Pontygwaith Farmhouse which is open as part of the National Garden Scheme.

Continuing up the Taff Trail and climbing a winding forest track to Craig-yr-efail. A short climb led them to the summit of Darren-y-Celyn or holly ridge, known locally as The Gap or the Giant's Bite.

The walkers dropped steeply downhill through housing to return to their start point.

On May 21, a change to the programme, meet at 9.45am at Llantwit Major Bus station (by the railway station) to catch the 9.55am bus to Ogmore and then the 11.5-mile mod/hard linear walk back to Llantwit; contact Barbara on 01446 734686.

On May 22, another change to the programme, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 9-mile moderate walk taking in Skenfrith and Garway Hill; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Eisteddfod proclamation countdown

TO start the celebrations leading to the Proclamation ceremony on June 25 at Barry for National Eisteddfod 2012, a concert has been arranged at The Bradenstoke Hall in St Donats on June 9.

The line-up is headed by Wynne Evans, who has invited his brother Mark (of WNO) friends, singer Shan Cothi, harpist Catrin Finch, and pianist Jeffrey Howard, from Only Men Aloud, to join him – and making new friends with him on the night will be young musical talent from the Vale.

Wynne said that he was looking forward to performing at this beautiful venue, but was not sure if his 'best friend' Gio Compare would be able to join him.

Tickets can be obtained at Davies Newsagents Cowbridge, Ticketsource.co.uk (or ring 01446 774530)

DEWCH i fwynhau cyngerdd mawreddog yng nghwmni Wynne Evans a'i ffrindiau, Mark ei frawd, Shan Cothi, Catrin Finch a Jeffrey Howard.

Yn ymuno gyda nhw ar y noson bydd rhai o dalentau ifanc y Fro sef Elen Williams a Pharti Heol y March enillwyr yn y genedlaethol bob un. Dewch i'r cyngerdd i ddechrau dathliadau cyhoeddi Eisteddfod Y Fro.

Time for serious talk on resolutions

SOUTHERNDOWN WI NEWS

PRESIDENT Rhiannon Gaen led an institute of reduced numbers at the May meeting of Southerndown WI which was the annual resolutions night.

WIs all over the country discuss the same subjects this month, chosen by all members in January. The first resolution urges the ban of planning permission for factory farming.

Meryl gave a comprehensive account of the pros and cons of this – large scale farms for up to 4,000 cows or more and with a rather shortened life span.

The branch was against such mega farming and unanimous for the resolution.

Jane spoke about the second resolution, to urge the government to maintain support for local libraries. She pointed out that, apart from the educational and informative aspect of libraries, they provide an important social link in the community.

Members recalled the always enjoyable visits to the library in their youth and later with their children.

It is a valuable, worthwhile asset in many ways nowadays, it seems unthinkable that there should be any question about its existence.

What would Carnegie be thinking were he alive today?

There was another unanimous vote for the resolution.

Diary dates in newsletter:

NFWI AGM at Liverpool, June 8, (observer tickets available);

Glamorgan Show, July 9, North Cornelly;

Christmas at Leeds Castle, November 18–21, (including visit to Windsor).

The next monthly meeting is on June 9 in St Brides Major church hall at 7.15pm, when Alan from Barry will entertain with 'Owls 4U'.

BM

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COWBRIDGE COMPOST RECYCLING CENTRE

Definitely a 'green for go'...

Compost company boosts Vale economy by cutting back on food waste

by PHILIP IRWIN

A COWBRIDGE company is continuing to expand its composting services by launching a food waste collection run.

Cowbridge Compost Ltd has expanded its business over the last 15 years, and has built a business that has stopped thousands of tons of waste going unnecessarily to landfill.

At the same time, it has enabled John Homfray, the owner, to offer more employment to local people.

A man who has long advocated the importance of diversification in the farming industry, he has practised what he preached and Cowbridge Compost, a business that can now process up to 25,000 tons of organic waste per year, is the result,

Now, the company has launched a food waste collection service, aimed at businesses and organisations that generate large quantities of such waste.

Mr Homfray explained: "We currently have the contract to take the kitchen waste collected by the Vale Council, and a similar contract with Swansea City Council.

"However, every business needs a range of customers, and we are keen to have a wide client base."

Mr Homfray said: "In conjunction with WRAP Cymru (Waste Resources Action Programme Cymru) Cowbridge Compost has recently taken delivery of a brand new Ford RCV (refuse collection vehicle) along with a large number of 240 litre wheelie bins.

"This will enable the company to collect foods waste on a weekly basis from businesses – pubs, restaurants, cafes and shops – in Cowbridge, Llantwit, Barry and Bridgend for recycling at our Llwynhelig Farm base."

He added: "Please contact us to check our very competitive rates – the new landfill tax rate applied from the April 2011 makes recycling extremely attractive and, of course, environmentally satisfying."

New machines have been bought, including a new shredder, tractor, trailers and an excavator.

In 2009, the company so impressed the judging panel of the Chartered Institute of Waste management (CIWM) that it beat national companies such as Biffa and Veolia in its category, the PEEL People's Cup, for "...providing excellent career, training and social opportunities for their staff."

Pictured are staff of Cowbridge Compost (back row left to right): Phil Taylor, Josh Govier, Miles Davey, Mike Hallett, John Homfray. Front row: Jamie Cooper, Andy Scott and Gary Googe.

The company is continuing its free offer to Vale residents to collect free compost to use on their own gardens during normal working hours.

Company manager Mike Hallett said: "We are very happy to offer this for free, but we ask residents to bring their own containers and spades.

"They will find the compost just inside the farm complex on the left... just follow your nose."

The compost is an end product from waste residents have sent to be recycled, and this includes garden waste such as leaves, hedge clippings and grass cuttings as well as the food waste..

Mr Hallett said: "Our compost is currently used on the farm to grow products such as daffodils, swede and cereal crops.

"Cowbridge Compost Ltd has met environment agency standards and must regularly send off samples for testing to prove absence of e-coli and salmonella."

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Lindstrand Aeroplatforms (Cardiff) Limited – **North west side of the Barrage, Cardiff Bay** – Advertisements/projections in association with Skyflyer, Gondola, Tube and Platform.
D B and J Griffiths – **Lower Greenway Farm, Bonvilston** – Retrospective planning application for the change of use of poultry sheds to use class B8 for storage purposes.
Mr Mark Aston – **21 Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys** – New dormer, master bedroom and window alterations to rear elevation.
Mr Andrew Preece – **Highcroft, Llansannor** – Single storey side extension.
Mrs Hayley Clare – **1 Augusta Road, Penarth** – Existing domestic dwelling with single storey to one side and part loft conversion/first floor to other to be altered to two storey building throughout with flat roof to one side and sloping roof to other.
Acorn Tree Services – **3 The Mount, Dinas Powys** – Coppice one yew tree.
Seraph Estates – **41 Barry Road, Barry** – Conversion to four flats and dormer extension and rooflights.
Mr David Walters – **Blackland Farm, Bonvilston** – Conversion of agricultural building to residential use.
Mr Andrew Gwyn – **43 Westward Rise, Barry** – One and two storey extensions.
Mr Mark Russin – **79 Cornerswell Road, Penarth** – Proposed dormer loft conversion to rear of existing domestic dwelling.
C/o Connections Design – **Hillcrest House, Tredodridge, Cowbridge** – First floor extension and internal works, with new porch.
Mr David C Smith – **The Sycamores, Llysworney** – Removal of fir tree.
NNB Generation Company Limited – **Hinkley Point C, Hinkley Point, Somerset** – Site clearance (including fencing, vegetation removal, demolition of existing structures, and creation of alternative footpaths); earthworks (including soil stripping and storage, site levelling, spoil screening/storage for re-use on site); provision of earth retaining structures; deep excavations; provision and relocation of drainage infrastructure (including culverts, outfalls, balancing ponds); the provision and operation of plant and machinery (including concrete batching); site establishment works (including laydown facilities, car parks, haulage roads, site access point and roundabouts.
Ms Penny Fell – **White Chapel, Llancarfan** – Reduce the crowns on two deciduous trees, crown thin and crown lift one Indian Bean tree and fell one Cypress.
Mr Kevin Ireland – **Meadow Gate, 94 Lavernock Road, Penarth** – Two storey extension to side elevation, single storey garage to side elevation, single storey porch to front elevation, single storey extension to rear elevation and contemporary update to all elevations.
Mrs Jodie Phillips – **18 Drylla, Southra Park, Dinas Powys** – Replacing existing conservatory with a brick lean-to extension.
Mrs Emily Seel – **47-49 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys** – Change of use of A1 ground floor showroom to D1 Veterinary Surgery.
Mr Gareth Evans – **10 Elm Grove Road, Dinas Powys** – Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a new conservatory and remodelling works to property to accommodate new set of rooms for elderly parents.
The Governors of Stanwell School – **Stanwell School, Salisbury Avenue, Penarth** – The demolition of an existing storage building and classroom block and the construction of a new indoor sports facility and replacement classrooms.
The Governors of Stanwell School – **Stanwell School, Salisbury Avenue, Penarth** – Proposed single storey garage and store at Stanwell School, Penarth.
Mr Steve Jones – **The Stables, St Donats, Llantwit Major** – Porch and garage extension with room over and conversion of roof space to form habitable room.
Mr Jonathan Thomas – **8 Parklands, Corntown, Bridgend** – Refurbishment and modifications to existing property.
Mr Alun Day – **8 Glan y Nant, Treoes, Bridgend** – Single storey extension.
Mr Graham Walters – **11 Drylla, Dinas Powys** – Demolish garage and erect two storey side extension to accommodate garage, utility room at ground floor and bedrooms and bathrooms at first floor.
Mr A Thomas – **Little Grange, Grange Avenue, Wenvoe** – Formation of ground floor alterations, extensions with loft conversion in raised roof extension.
Damian Hosker – **Opposite 1, Bank House, East Street, Llantwit Major** – Single BT telecommunication cabinet, painted green.
Mr Andrew Griffiths – **19 Windy Ridge, Dinas Powys** – Proposed pitched roof to include dormer over existing flat roof side additions.
Mr Julian Hitchcock – **Old Rectory, Llandough, Cowbridge** – Single storey extension including internal alterations to kitchen.
BAMC – **Dragonfly Drive, Rhoose** – Temporary change of use of land for a period of six months to facilitate dismantling of two Boeing 747 aircraft by British Airways.

Property Wanted

Due to a record month of property sales we urgently require a variety of property throughout the Vale of Glamorgan to satisfy demand

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- Double glazing
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WOLFE CLOSE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom property in popular location
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- Double glazing
- Driveway to front
- Viewings highly recommended
- Offered freehold with vacant possession

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GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY
- 1 bedroom gallery style starter home
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Cul-de-sac location
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

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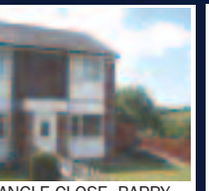

ANGLE CLOSE, BARRY
- Well presented 2 bedroom end link property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Conservatory
- Good sized gardens to front & rear
- Stunning views over countryside
- Viewing highly recommended

£120,000

FAIRFORD STREET, BARRY
- Single garage
- No amenities
- In need of upgrading
- Ideal for use as storage unit
- Secure cul-de-sac location

£5,000

FAIRFORD STREET, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Ideal investment or first time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£90,000

SOLD

LOWER PYKE STREET, BARRY
- 2 bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Viewings highly recommended.

£109,950

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom end terrace in popular location
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Exceptionally large accommodation
- Offered with vacant possession and no chain

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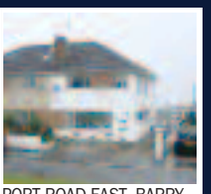

PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached in sought after location
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- Additional loft room
- Detached garage, workshop/utility room & driveway
- Backing directly onto countryside with panoramic rural views
- Viewing highly recommended

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SOLD

14 WYND STREET, BARRY
- Traditional bay fronted mid terrace property
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception rooms
- Ideal investment
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

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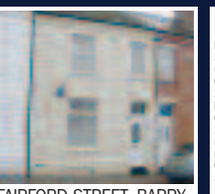
CHURCH ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace in popular location
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain
- Priced for a quick sale

£90,000



FAIRFORD STREET, BARRY
- 2 Bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Viewings highly recommended
- Ideal investment or first time purchase
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

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ST MARYS AVENUE, BARRY
2 bedroom mid terrace in central location, GCH, DG, unfurnished **£525 pcm**
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GREENWAY COURT, BARRY
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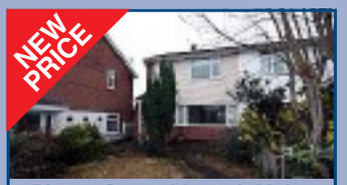

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Family Notices

LAWRENCE
Lloyd 'Larry'

Lloyd's family send their grateful thanks to all who attended the service, to all who cared for him during his fight against cancer and to the friends, ex-colleagues and neighbours who have provided immense support to the family before and after his death.

Special thanks to Rev Irfon James of Windsor Road United Reform Church and Mr Lyndsay J. Ellis of Park Independent Funeral Directors, Barry for overseeing a fitting celebration of Larry's life.

Many thanks for the flowers, cards, and messages of condolences, and donations in lieu to the Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust which amounted to over £1000 and will be used to research and promote specialist support services in Wales and all over the UK.

'Precious memories, lovingly treasured'
Myrtle Lawrence and family

Dai Deacon

Sadly passed away on 25 March 2011, aged 21.

Sue and Jon would like to thank everyone for their support and kindness.

Thank you to Lyndsay of Park Funeral Directors Ltd.

All donations made, have gone to Hope Rescue and the PDSA and also to Woodside Animal Welfare Trust who will re-home Mason.

From everyone whose lives you've touched and whose hearts you've captured.
Love for Forever.

JONES
William (Bill)

Margaret, Emma, Anthony and Ewan would like to thank family and friends for their kindness and support following their sad loss.

Special thanks to Llantwit Bowling Club members for their help and support during Bill's illness.

Thank you for donations made to Ty Hafan.

Anniversaries

Ruby Wedding Anniversary
DEREK & TINA ROWLANDS
22nd May 2011
Mum, Dad, Nanny & Bampy - Congratulations on your 40th Wedding Anniversary
All our love,
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Weddings

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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 • Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Conservation Area / Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00411/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed single storey cafeteria extension at Stanwell School Penarth
Location:/Lleoliad: Stanwell School, Salisbury Avenue, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00424/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of redundant garden centre buildings
Location:/Lleoliad: R. S. Bird Ltd.,Birds Lane, Cowbridge.
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00404/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Single storey extension including internal alterations to kitchen
Location:/Lleoliad: Old Rectory, Llandough, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00409/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Two storey extensions and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Hensol, Hensol Park, Hensol
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Hensol Castle and attached courtyard to north, Grade I, Hensol Bridge, Grade II and Hafod Lodge to Hensol Castle, Grade II Listed Buildings

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00438/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of new car park and access ramp on land to the rear of the Docks Offices and works to upgrade the existing Council car park and lighting in order to provide a mixed use Council car park and park and ride scheme
Location:/Lleoliad: Dock Offices, Subway Road, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Former Barry Docks Office, Grade II*, six lamp standards outside former Barry Docks Office, Grade II, pedestal and Statue of David Davies of Llandinam, Grade II* Listed Buildings

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No: /Rhif y cais: 2011/00423/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of redundant garden centre buildings and erection of foodstore building (approximately 2,074m2 gross external area) and non food retail building (approximately 661m2 gross external area) and service yard together with 138 car parking spaces, rerouted public footpath and landscaping
Location:/Lleoliad: R. S. Bird Ltd., Birds Lane, Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/00341/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New access, parking area and internal pathways to serve proposed allotments
Location:/Lleoliad: Land south of Wenvoe and East of Port Road

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Dated / Dyddiedig: 19 May, 2011 / 19 Mai, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

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Cowbridge teams light up Kidwelly Sevens

WITH the weather forecast predicting a wet and windy west Wales, Cowbridge under-11s and supporters set off for Kidwelly for their annual seven-a-side tournament.

Because of the enthusiasm shown by the squad, it was decided to take three teams. This was much appreciated by the tournament organisers who, at the end of the day, expressed their gratitude for the significant contribution that the Cowbridge under-11s made to what was an excellent, exciting day of rugby, the results of which are as follows:

Cowbridge A 30, Cwmtwrch 0; Try scorers: Elliott Bancroft (two), Rhys Bradshaw (two), Rhydian Williams, Sam Corkill.

Cowbridge A 30, Llandeilo B 0; Try scorers: Elliott Bancroft (two), Bevan Howells (two), Evan Williams, Sam Corkill.

Cowbridge A 25, Cowbridge B 15; A try scorers; Jac Roberts, Rhys Bradshaw, Bevan Howells, Elliott Bancroft, Rhydian Williams. B try scorers; Ellis Simon (two), Max Lucas.

Following victories over Cwmtwrch and Llandeilo B in which the Cowbridge A team did not concede a try, their next opponents were their good friends from Cowbridge B.

Two early tries were scored by the A team's Jac Roberts and Rhys Bradshaw for a 10–0 lead.

Some may have thought that the writing was on the wall, but not the boys from the B team, who increased their intensity and commitment.

Great teamwork between the forwards and backs worked well for Ellis Simon, who broke away with a barnstorming run to open the B team account. Then Ellis Simon received the ball again and set off on another run to level the score. The atmosphere was superb, with tremendous vocal support from the spectators. It is often the case that when on the back foot, inspiration is required from a key player to raise the spirits of one's team mates.

This came from the always reliable Bevan Howells, who made an excellent run down the left hand side and an equally impressive run was made by his brother Jamie, who set off diagonally across field but despite his magnificent effort, big-brother Bevan grounded the ball in the nick-of-time.

Two further tries for the A's came from Elliott Bancroft and Rhydian Williams. However, the last say went to the Bs with Max Cunnington characteristically charging through opponents to provide space and a scoring pass to the supportive Max Lucas.

Cowbridge A 20, Llandeilo A 0; Try scorers: Rhydian Williams (two), Elliott Bancroft, Bevan Howells.

Cowbridge B 0, Cwmtwrch 20.

Cowbridge B 15, Cowbridge C 10; B try scorers: Luke Beattie, Max Cunnington, Morgan Gore. C try scorers: Rhys Davies, Barney Langton-Cryer.

Cowbridge B 25, Llandeilo B 0; Try scorers: James Guard, Jamie Howells, Max Cunnington, Morgan Gore, Luke Beattie.

Cowbridge C 0, Cwmtwrch 10.

Cowbridge C 0, Kidwelly 10.

Plate Semi-Final: Cowbridge B 15, Llandeilo B 0; Try scorers: Max Cunnington, Luke Beattie, James Guard.

Plate Semi-Final: Cowbridge C 0, Kidwelly 5.

Although only one single try was scored in this semi-final, it was not without its excitement and tension. The Cowbridge boys gave the home team's defence a severe test with the front three of Cameron Roy, Dylan Cottle, and tireless Tom Jose providing a good supply of possession for the backs.

Cowbridge under-11s squad

Despite some great efforts from Ben Jones and Barney, Angus and Oliver, the Cowbridge backs could not cross the white line.

Frustratingly, there were a few opportunities when the fleet-footed Rhys Davies was left unmarked but regrettably the over-laps were not taken advantage of. Luck was against the Cowbridge boys, and after a determined drive by Tom Coates he spilled the ball after crossing the white line.

The boys must take great heart from restricting a strong Kidwelly team to just one try and for coming close to an all-Cowbridge Plate Final.

The boys' performance showed that we have a tremendously strong squad of players at Cowbridge and, as the Kidwelly coach said after the game, all of the Cowbridge squad members should do well next season in the long awaited 15 a-side rugby.

Plate Final: Cowbridge B 15, Kidwelly 5; Try scorer: Max Cunnington (three).

The confidence of the Cowbridge B team gradually improved as the competition progressed, thanks to the determined drives of Ellis Simon and Dan Taylor; the tenacious tackling of William Davies and Max Lucas; and the splendid support play of James Guard, Morgan Gore, Luke Beattie and Jamie Howells.

In the Plate Final they were all to play their part and their team work excelled. However, it was the magnificent Max Cunnington who stole the show.

Like Merlin the magician, he conjured up three tremendous tries; the first a barnstorming run the length of the pitch; and the second, a weaving run through the opposition's ranks.

For the third try, it has to be said that much credit has to go to Jamie Howells who showed his class in twisting through luckless defenders before off-loading to Max Lucas who in turn provided the try-scoring pass. The final score 15–5.

Main competition final: Cowbridge A 25, Cwmtwrch 5; Try scorers: Rhydian Williams (three), Evan Williams, Bevan Howells.

The opening try resulted from a defensive lineout near the Cowbridge try-line after a slick pass from Ioan Lewis to Bevan Howells, who expertly drew two opponents and then off-loaded to the elusive Evan Williams who ran almost the length of the pitch to score.

The second try came soon after when Howells weaved his way through hapless defenders. Not to be out-done by his cousin Evan, who had run the length of the left hand touchline for the opening try, Rhydian Williams opened his try-scoring account with a blistering run down the right hand side.

Then there was a touch of sheer class – Rhys Bradshaw catching the ball in his own half and, like Phil Bennett jinking back-and-fore in 'that try', he drew defenders and then passed to Rhydian Williams who ran in his second try.

However, the Cwmtwrch team were made of stern stuff and early in the second half scored a well worked try. Cwmtwrch's determined defensive display then limited Cowbridge to only one second half try, but what a cracker it was.

Evan Williams set off on one of his runs, and off-loaded to Rhys Bradshaw, who displayed another sparkling side-step before passing to Rhydian Williams who ran straight through the remaining defenders to gain his hat-trick and seal a great victory.

Cowbridge A squad: *Jac Roberts, Sam Corkill, Ioan Lewis, Rhys Bradshaw, Bevan Howells, Evan Williams, Rhydian Williams, Elliott Bancroft, Jake Griffiths.*

Cowbridge B squad*: Max Cunnington, Morgan Gore, Ellis Simon, William Davies, James Guard, Dan Taylor, Max Lucas, Luke Beattie, Jamie Howells.*

Cowbridge C squad: *Tom Jose, Rhys Davies, Tom Coates, Angus James, Cameron Roy, Olliver Reynolds, Dylan Cottle, Ben Jones, Barney Langton-Cryer.*

Overall, the boys from all three Cowbridge teams played their part in a superb display of open, running rugby and they should all be extremely proud of themselves. The Kidwelly coach was very complimentary about the skills level and team work of all three Cowbridge teams.

Who can forget the outstanding skill of the day, Ioan Lewis' pass between his legs, under pressure, to Bevan Howells to score.

I am sure that everyone would like to offer a huge thank you to the coaches/managers of the three teams on the day – Chris Bradshaw, Mark Lewis and Stav Williams for their guidance and encouragement.

Also, thanks are due to Jamie, Barney and Ben for being part of the squad and enabling us to take three strong teams to Kidwelly.

In particular, a special thank you to Elliott for travelling down from Cheltenham – it was a pleasure to see him demonstrate his speed and skills on a rugby field again.

Thanks also to all the parents and friends of Cowbridge under-11s who provided their support.

ML

Final standings in the Llantwit Darts League

THE competition winners were: Ladies Singles – Tanya (White Hart), Gents Singles – Allan Morgan (Fox), Ladies Pairs – Julie Cheal & Gaynor Dale (Kings Cup), Gents Pairs – Allan Morgan & partner (Fox), Mixed Pairs – Tanya & partner, Ladies Fours – Kings Cup, Eddie Meredith – Kings Cup, Gents Fours, Alec McGaw, Sir Cennydd and Champion of Champions – Kings Head A1.

Thanks very much to all the players who took part in the Llantwit Major & District Darts League this year.

The players and committee would especially like to thank Jean Griffiths and Sheryn Islip for their sterling work in organising and running the Ladies and Gents Singles nights.

Congratulations to Tanya and Allan Morgan for winning two premier competitions each.

The Kings Cup came away with three competitions, special mentions to Julie and Gaynor for giving the Kings Cup (formerly the Three Horseshoes St Athan) their first ever winners in the Ladies Pairs.

The Kings Head A1 came away with four trophies including the Champion of Champions.

The committee would like to thank all chalkers and checkers for their help on all function nights and would also like to thank Martin, Phil, Donna and Carrie for their help in setting up the Llantwit Major Rugby Club for our very enjoyable presentation night which was held on Saturday.

One final special mention to our league secretary Meurig Morgan who puts a lot of time and effort in organising and running the league and all function nights; he is set to celebrate 20 years as secretary at the AGM.

The annual general meeting of the LMDDL is being held today (May 19, at 8.30pm) at the Llantwit Major Rugby Club; attendance is open to all members of the league and any members of the public who may be interested in joining a team in the darts league.

The summer league starts on Tuesday, May 24, and the league welcomes back the newly refurbished Boverton Castle to the fold.

Good luck to all the players playing in the summer league this year and we look forward to welcoming back all present and new players to the winter leagues when they start in September 2011.

DAVE CHEAL

THE final standings of the Llantwit Major and District Darts League were as follows:

A LEAGUE

Kings Head 1	167
White Hart	144
Wenvoe	141
Kings Cup	131
Shoes Peterston	121
Fox & Hounds	114
Kings Head 2	113
Rugby Club	111
Lamb & Flag	87
Four Bells	80
Golden Cups	72
Blacksmith Arms 1	65
Blacksmiths Arms 2	48

C LEAGUE

Shoes Marcross	133
Lamb & Flag	125
Carpenters	121
Kings Cup	117
Kings Head 1	90
Kings Head 2	81
Farmers Arms	70
Rugby Club 2	47

Sea View lads take honours

RECENT catches have been good in Barry with the summer species starting to show in numbers.

Rays, dogs and eels have been caught, along with whiting, bass and the eagerly awaited hounds.

The Sea View Lads have shown their prowess by cleaning up at the recent CIU open competition fished at the Knap and Porthkerry.

Mickey Langford took overall first place with a bag that included a smoothound and a bass, while Mike Kerslake took second place with a thornback and whiting.

The top two team places were taken by the lads as well – all in all a fine day!

The following Sunday saw Mickey take the honours again with a couple of rays and dogs while Paul Crooke took second with a bag that included a 10lb 6oz hound.

Aida Harris was pipped into third place with a double figure eel. fifth places.

JC

Vale Seconds outclass Hoovers

Vale 335-5 (45 overs)
Hoovers 88 all out (32 overs)
Won by 247 runs

VALE lost the toss and were asked to bat by Hoovers on what appeared to be a decent wicket, and this proved to be the case as Vale Seconds racked up their biggest total for a number of years.

Vale's very experienced top five proceeded to put Hoovers to the sword. A 55 opening partnership between Chris Pike and Gareth Andrews was ended when Andrews played on for the second week running for 18. Pike followed five runs later when he was caught for 27.

This brought the captain Mark Francis and Robert Howley together, and they put together a fine 112-run partnership before Howley was out top edging a sweep to short fine leg for a well-made 55.

Neil Raikes entered the fray in his lucky number five slot and soon showed his power by hitting a number of leg side boundaries. Vale continued to score freely, certainly in Raikes' case, and these two put on 92 before the skipper fell for 57.

Raikes continued to power on and a third partnership in excess of 50 was put together with Matthew Thomas, before Thomas sacrificed himself in a farcical run out and fell for five. Raikes fell just short of a well-deserved century when the innings closed after 45 overs, left undefeated on 98.

Archie Yates remained on six not out and Vale closed their innings on 335–5. Despite the avalanche of runs the Hoovers captain Geraint Thomas returned creditable figures of 3–54 off 13 overs.

Jack Davies and Chris Pike led the attack for Vale and both bowled well beating the outside edge consistently. Davies was unlucky when a catch was dropped at gully which was quickly followed by another going to ground at second slip, this time off Pike.

Pike took the first wicket when he proved there was some catching ability in the side, holding a sharp caught-and-bowled chance. Davies was replaced by Paul Gilbert who took a wicket with his third ball as Howley held a catch at mid wicket.

Gilbert struck again at the end of his spell, taking another caught-and-bowled chance and finished with figures of 2–20 off six overs.

Archie Yates had replaced Pike and bowled a good tight spell, which was rewarded when Gareth Andrews took a well judged catch at extra cover.

With four wickets down, the skipper introduced himself and Howley into the attack, which saw the game come to a speedy conclusion. The skipper clean bowled the number six batsman and at the other end Howley ran through Hoover's tail, not before some further catches went to ground.

Howley took a well judged caught-and-bowled chance and his guile and craft was too much for the Hoovers lower order batsmen, as three were deceived and clean bowled.

Hoovers were bowled out for 88 and Vale collected a maximum 20 points after winning by a massive 247 runs.

The Vale bowling figures were Jack Davies 7-2-20-0, Chris Pike 8-1-19-1, Paul Gilbert 6-0-20-2, Archie Yates 5-1-13-1, Mark Francis 3-2-5-1 and Robert Howley 3-0-8-4.

The skipper said: "A very satisfying win against a weak opposition. For a second week we bowled really well, although I would like to see more catches sticking. An excellent effort by Neil and a shame he couldn't have squeezed out a couple of more runs to get to three figures, but there were good partnerships built throughout the innings, which was pleasing to see".

Cowbridge under-12s win Kidwelly Sevens tournament

COWBRIDGE were in unstoppable form as they won the annual Kidwelly Sevens Tournament, scoring 24 tries and conceding just one in the final.

Every member of the team contributed to a fantastic performance, ending another successful season.

The coaching staff should also be proud of their efforts in encouraging an exciting brand of rugby and of assisting a number of players in selection to the Cardiff Blues Squad.

First Round: Cowbridge 3, Rhiwbina 0; Cowbridge 6, Cefneithin 0; Cowbridge 6, Waunarlwdd 0.

Semi Final: Cowbridge 4, South Gower 0.

Final: Cowbridge 5, Newcastle Emlyn 1.

Cowbridge Squad: Backs; Rhys Beynon, Seán Davies, Cai Evans, Osian John, Toff Patel. Forwards; Duncan Ace, Dan Bunney, Tomos Evans-Williams, Harry Hopkins, Ben Terry.

Kidwelly Player of the Tournament under-12s, Cai Evans, Cowbridge.

ALAN DAVIES

Cowbridge under-14s fly Welsh flag in Paris!

OVER the Easter holidays, the Cowbridge under-14s rugby team headed to Disneyland Paris for the Annual International Junior Rugby Festival which took place over three days in sweltering temperatures.

First up was a tricky encounter against Hitchin Boys School which they won 29–7.

Next up was Newcastle Under Lyme and with the early nerves settled and confidence growing the Cowbridge lads proved far too much for their opponents running in five tries without reply. Score 33–0.

They beat Queen Elizabeth Hospital School from Bristol 12–5. Only a disaster in the final group match v Woodcote from South London would prevent Cowbridge proceeding as group winners into the semi finals. No disaster materialised and five tries to nil saw the Cowbridge lads go through to the semi finals as group winners. Score 31–0.

Day two of the festival saw the teams given the opportunity to receive some top quality coaching from ex-internationals Scott Quinell of Wales, Andy Gommarsall of England and Paul Turner the ex-Dragons Coach.

Day three was semi finals and finals day with Cowbridge facing Manchester Grammar School in the second semi final.

The Cowbridge boys set about the task to make it to the final, showing superior power up front and some great handling and running from the back division.

The Welsh lads didn't waiver running in three tries and rightly earning their place in the final against Judd School from Kent. The final score was 19–0.

The final took place in front of a crowd consisting of mainly English teams all supporting their compatriots from Kent against the outsiders from Wales.

The atmosphere served to fire up the Cowbridge lads who saved their best till last and put their fellow finalists to the sword running in six tries.

It was an outstanding display in all areas of the game from a dominant pack of forwards, some tremendous backline moves and some superb tackling and defence.

All that was left was to collect the International Festival Trophy at the presentation dinner which was presented to Cowbridge by Paul Turner and Andy Gommarsall.

All involved were very complimentary about the Cowbridge team's performance and in particular their superb display of running rugby.

The boys did their town and country proud! Thanks go to the boys, parents, supporters, Cowbridge coaching staff, tour organisers and tour sponsors.

It now transpires that due to lack of a suitable date at Cardiff Arms Park the Blues final will take place at the start of next season.

Cowbridge under-14 squad: Adam Dix, Alex Guard, Johnny Hunt, Freddy Dewey, Josh Thomas, Joshua Rogers, Matt Lock, Nicky Griffiths, Arron Bowman, Tom Higgins, Marc Herbert, Harry Dowell-Bennett, Will Brinkly, Matt Howells, Josh Payne, Dan Holder, Harry Goodfellow, Lloyd Elms, Noah Johnson, Joel Ringer, Trystan Notley, Joe Davies, Sam Richards, Dan Evans, Liam Martin, Sam Laity, George Griffiths, Jo Gaughan (captain).

NICK GUARD

Cowbridge under-14 squad in Paris

Imps seek keeper

CADOXTON Imps AFC year-5 are looking for a budding goalkeeper to join their team for the coming football season 2011–12.

Please contact Gary on 07708 970579 or Richard on 07971 236008 if you are interested.

CADOXTON STRUGGLE IN MUNRO CUP CLASH

CADOXTON came up against Millwood in the Munro Cup.

Millwood reversed the result, from the A side fixture last week when they were heavily beaten, by getting consolation with an easy win.

Only the rink skipped by Les Cundliffe had success for Cadoxton, against the rink skipped by Derek Jeffries. They raced into a 10–1 lead before making the score 16–5 by the 11th end. A recovery during the final ends reduced the arrears.

On Graham Brown's rink the scores were level after 10 ends. Then a 2 gave them the advantage on the next. However this was short-lived with two 3s and a 6 against, to take the game away from them.

Kelvin Chedgzoy dropped a 4 on the first, against the rink skipped by Peter Taylor but kept in contention, trailing by just two shots at the 13th end.

The visitors doubled their score during the last five ends without reply.

Don Kuhnell came up against Roger Jones, who performed admirably with help from all his rink to win comfortably.

Rink scores: P Ellis, G Solomon, I Robertson, G Brown 13, P Jones, C Mallow, D Gorringe, B Webb 22;

R Cole, M Matthews, L Davies, K Chedgzoy 7, A Evans, J Slee, T Mahoney, P Taylor 18;

J Stewart, D Evans, H Craven, D Kuhnell 10, G Stone, K Mills, A Hatcher, R Jones 18;

T Bishop, R Knight, M Curtis, L Cundliffe 19, K Davies, M Gronow, G Kerslake, D Jeffries 14.

Final score: 49–72.

Carruthers Shield

THE visit of Cadoxton to Barry Athletic coincided with the date of the club opening 100 years ago.

'The Athletic' took the opportunity to further their chances of winning the Carruthers section with a substantial success.

Graham Brown, skipped the rink against Glyn Thomas, and did his best to stop their progress with an early 5–0 advantage progressing to 18–6 after 15 ends.

This 12 shot lead was held until the final end when, with only the seventh successful end for the home side, the deficit was reduced with a 6.

Don Kuhnell met Dean Rees as his opposite skip and a close contest took place, to the half way stage, with only one shot difference.

A run of five ends were then lost by the visitors, to open a gap, which was partly closed in the closing ends.

The other two rinks skipped by Kelvin Chedgzoy and Howard Craven, found it hard going against international players Robert Horgan and Chris Blake, and were well beaten.

Rink scores: P Ellis, G Davies, I Robertson, G Brown 22, L Stanley, P Webley, K Harris, G Thomas 16;

B Knight, M Matthews, J Crout, H Craven 13 , S McKernan, D Jones, C Wright, R Horgan 38;

T Bishop, L Davies, J Davies, D Kuhnell 16, J Beanland, DK Williams, B Parrish, D Rees 23;

G Solomon, W Vaughan, L Cundliffe, K Chedgzoy 5, D Snelling, R Cowling, G Whittaker, C Blake 24.

Final score, 56–101.

SVL

ANOTHER big win was produced by the Cadoxton 'A' side who entertained Murch A in the SVL. All rinks were successful.

Mike Curtis took his rink to 19–1 on the 12th end before five of the next seven ends went in favour of their opposition. A 4 on the last stopped the revival. Alan Carpenter's rink conceded just six singles and a 2 while building an impressive score including two 5s.

A similar story for John Stewart's rink with the scores conceded the same but two shots less scored.

To complete the whitewash Roy Harding's four manufactured a 22–8 lead after 17 ends with just five losing ends. Unfortunately 11 shots were lost over the last four ends.

Rink scores: G Powell. J Maidment, I Dunbar, J Stewart, 23, M Warman, B Frampton, B Toozer, T Mayor 8;

S Clarke, R Cole, D Brook, A Carpenter 25, C Savidge, R Goulding, G Lane, G Russell 8;

L Adams, D Tuck, A Turner, R Harding 22, O Way, A Perry, F Maunder, R Pratt 19;

K Tanner, S Pycroft, G Garland, M Curtis, 27, J Flye, P Willis, H Guppy, J Evans 10.

Final score: 97–45.

LEADERS EXTEND THEIR POINTS ADVANTAGE

DAMIAN JONES was in fine form for Bridgend six a side Sunday Premier Division leaders B Attack as they saw off the challenge of Team Extreme by three goals to nil.

Their lead has been extended, as closest rivals Persil Boys slumped to a 3-1 defeat at the hands of The Pie Boys.

Misfits are within touching distance of the First Division title as they overcame Blackjack 3-1 with Minter Phoenix sitting second, as Lee Hurst guided them to a 2-0 win over Inter Windmill.

Beer Attack have opened up a three point lead at the summit of the Wednesday five a side league as Glyn Davies inspired a fine 3-1 win over The Invincibles.

El Wapos have dropped off the pace as they succumbed to a 2-0 reverse at the hands of Valley Commandos.

Anyone who wants to join the football leagues in Bridgend can telephone 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

PREMIER DIVISION

Team	Played	Goal Diff	pts
Beer Attack	11	38	18
el wapos	11	19	15
The-Invincibles	11	7	15
Little F	11	0	12
Cwm Ogwr Wasps	11	-20	10
valley commandos fc	11	-3	8
FC Ogmore	11	-18	6
Hangover Heroes	11	-23	4

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05 05 ALFA ROMEO 1.9TJTD M-Jet. Met blue, 3-dr, a/con, elecs, 6-speed, fsh, cruise control, 76k £4,995
53 04 MITSUBISHI Carisma 1.9 TD di-d Elegance. In steel grey metallic, FSH, 1 owner, leather interior, a/c, cruise control, towbar, 49k £3,895
V 99 VOLKSWAGEN 1000 Van TD, SWB. In white, 2 former keepers, radio/cd £3,595
02 02 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr. In silver, pas, e/w, a/con, 89k . .£1,995
V 99 AUDI A3 1.6 Sport V. In gold, fsh, radio/cd, 89k, electric windows, 3 keys £1,995
Y 01 FORD Focus Zetec 5-dr. In met silver, fsh, a/con, radio cd, 83k .£1,995
W 00 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.8 GTi 5-dr. In black, climate, sport Recarro seats £1,995
X 00 FORD Focus LX 1.8 5-dr. In red, cd changer, fsh, a/con, e/w, 91k £1,895
51 01 PEUGEOT 206 1.4LX. Met silver, a/con, fsh, elec windows, 60k £1,795
T 99 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6 Automatic 5-dr. In red, 6 disc CD changer, fsh, 81k £1,695
51 01 TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 5-dr. In silver, sat nav, a/con, e/w, fsh (3 keys), 93k £1,695
W 00 PEUGEOT 206 1.9 Diesel LX. In red, a/c, radio/cd, electric windows, fsh, 50k £1,595
Y 01 FORD Focus Estate 1.8 Zetec. In blue, a/c, radio/cd, electric windows/mirrors £1,395
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98 HONDA Accord 'LS' 1.8. Silver met, fsh, 2 owners, full pack and all invoices for work done, excellent example £995
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06 56 MINI Cooper S 1.6 (175bhp) 3-dr hatchback. In In chilli red with black cloth/red leather ray combination upholstery, chrome line exterior, rear spoiler, radio/cd, panoramic roof, alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, only 47,450 miles **£9,995**

07 07 FORD Mondeo 2.2 TDCi 155 Edge 5-dr estate. In stardust silver with majestic slate interior, cd, air con, quick clear screen, auto lights, rear parking sensors, privacy glass, only 42,600 miles **£7,995**

03 03 FORD Fiesta 1.4LX (a/c) Durashift EST 5-dr hatchback. In deep navy blue with midnight black interior, quickclear screen, air con, cd, service history, only 36,110 miles.....**£3,495**

4x4

07 07 NISSAN X-Trial 2.5i Automatic Colombia 5-dr Station Wagon. In kuro black with warp grey interior, climate control, multi cd, alloy wheels, privacy glass, service history, electric sunroof, only 43,265 miles **£9,995**

06 55 TOYOTA Rav4 2.0 VVt-I XTR 5-dr station wagon. In carbon quartz grey with lisbon cloth interior, cruise control, climate control, electric sunroof, cd, alloy wheels, only 54,000 miles .**£9,495**

03 53 SUZUKI Jimny 1.2 02 Edition 3Dr Soft Top Convertible. In black with anthracite interior, CD, electric windows, alloy wheels, only 36,700 miles **£4,995**

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09 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v (140ps) SRi 3-dr Sports Hatch. In technical grey with charcoal alpha cloth interior, air con, 17" alloy wheels, front fogs, ESP, immobiliser, only 26,850 miles **£9,995**

08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4i 16v Club Automatic 5-Dr Hatchback. In metro blue with cable charcoal interior, air con, radio/CD, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, only 26,000 miles **£7,995**

09 58 VAUXHALL Corsa SXi 1.4 16v 3-dr hatchback. In silver with charcoal interior, air con, alloy wheels, cd, immobiliser, only 42,400 miles **£7,995**

08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C). 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£7,995**

08 58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4i 16v Club Automatic 5-dr Hatchback. In metro blue with cable charcoal interior, air con, radio/CD, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, only 26,000 miles **£7,995**

08 08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr in star silver met with tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 10,800 miles **£7,995**

07 57 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9CDTi 16v (150ps) SRi 5-dr hatchback. In panacotta beige with duke charcoal interior, air con, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, cd, alarm, only 46,950 miles **£7,795**

07 57 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-dr MPV. In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles **£6,495**

07 07 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 16v (115ps) life 5-dr hatchback. In metallic silver with charcoal interior, air con, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, anti-lock brakes, only 50,200 miles ..**£5,495**

06 56 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 16v 2-dr twin top coupe in black sapphire with alpha charcoal interior, air con, alarm, immobiliser, electric windows, only 42,890 miles **£6,595**

05 55 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v Club Automatic. In moonland grey, with charcoal interior, alloy wheels, air con, immobiliser, power steering, only 62,200 miles **£5,250**

SPORTS

09 59 HONDA Civic 1.4i-Vtec TypeS 3-dr hatchback in milano red with half suede interior, cd, traction control, immoiliser, alarm, alloy wheels, only 16,970 miles **£12,495**

09 09 MINI 1.6 (120bhp) Cooper (Pepper) Graphite In graphite grey with black interior, storage compartment package, 2 spoke leather steering wheel, air con, CD, only 6,570 miles ...**£13,495**

07 57 PEUGEOT 207 1.6HDi 110 sport 5-dr hatchback. In onyx black with black/grey interior, air con, cd, electric windows and mirrors, front fog, ISOFIX anchorage points, only 57,000 miles **£6,495**

06 56 MINI Cooper S 1.6 (175bhp) 3-dr hatchback. In In chilli red with black cloth/red leather ray combination upholstery, chrome line exterior, rear spoiler, radio/cd, panoramic roof, alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, only 47,450 miles **£9,995**

06 56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSi (170ps) FT 5-dr in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles **£9,995**

06 06 BMW Z4 2.0i SE Roadster 2-dr convertible. In silver grey with spirit black interior, anti-lock brakes, automatic air con, front fogs, electric windows, only 33,565 miles **£11,995**

05 05 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 T Fsi (200ps) GTi 5-dr Hatchback in tornado red with anthracite Vienna leather interior, parking sensors, heated front seats, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, onl 67,600 miles **£9,995**

05 55 BMW 1 Series 2.0TD 118d Sport 5-Dr Hatchback. In sapphire black with anthracite interior, CD, climate control, alloy wheels, front fogs, only 52,000 miles **£10,495**

05 55 RENAULT Megane 1.6VVt 115 privilege 2-dr coupe cabriolet. In red with beige interior, dash mounted multi cd, alloy wheels, climate controls, body coloured bumpers, front fogs, only 49,110 miles **£5,495**

05 55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible. In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles **£4,995**

03 53 VOLKSWAGEN Beetle 2.0 2-dr convertible. In aquarius blue with anthracite interior, air con, electronic stability programme traction control system, alloy wheels, only 78,653 miles **£6,995**

03 53 VOLVO S60 2.0TS 4-dr Saloon in metallic gold with beige interior, cruise control, multi CD, traction control, only 42,480 miles **£4,995**

03 53 HONDA Civic 1.6 VTec SE Sport 3-Dr Hatchback. In Aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, heated electric mirrors, CD, only 46,400 miles **£4,495**

03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£3,995**

03 03 BMW 3 Series 3.0 330 Ci Convertible in Topaz Blue with Montana grey leather interior, 6-CD changer, heated seats, automatic air cn, traction control system, only 55,200 miles **£9,495**

03 03 BMW 3 series 2.0 318Ci 2-dr convertible. In metallic gold with black leather interior, multi cd, heated seats, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cruise control, air con, only 56,310 miles **£8,495**

02 02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 T (225) 2-dr Convertible. In silver with grey leather interior, six CD changer, BOSE sound system, 17" alloy wheels, immobiliser only 70,620 miles **£8,995**

01 Y Volvo C70 2.4T 2-dr Automatic Coupe. In moondust with black leather interior, cruise control, climate control, cd, heated seats, only 68,250 miles **£3,995**

89 G BMW 3 Series 320i 2.0 2-dr Convertible. In silver with black leather interior, headlamp cleaning system, M-Technic steering wheel, wood effect trim, electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, only 68,140 miles **£4,995**

FAMILY

10 10 FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi (140ps) titanium 5-dr MPV. In moondust silver with ebony alcantara leather interior, quickclear screen, climate control, cruise control, phone prep, sports front bumper, one owner, only 8,290 miles **£19,995**

09 59 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140) Zetec 5-dr Hatchback in stardust silver with ebony interior, bluetooth phone prep, traction control system, air con, quick clear screen, cruise control, only 31,910 miles **£12,995**

08 58 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi Desire 5-dr MPV. In oriental blue with black interior, ISOFIX anchorage point, air con, front electric windows, only 36,740 miles **£7,995**

07 57 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDi Stylance in metallic ruby red with stylance grey interior, rear parking sensors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles **£8,495**

07 07 FORD Mondeo 2.2 TDCi 155 Edge 5-dr estate. In stardust silver with majestic slate interior, cd, air con, quick clear screen, auto lights, rear parking sensors, privacy glass, only 42,600 miles **£7,995**

07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles **£6,495**

06 06 AUDI A4 2.0TDi S-line 4-dr saloon in brilliant red with mondial black interior, climate control, body coloured bumpers, radio/cd, service history, only 74,400 miles **£9,995**

05 55 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 Desire 2 5-dr MPV in oriental blue with dark interior, air con, power steering, electric windows, service history, one owner, only 62,000 miles **£4,995**

05 55 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0TDCi Ghia 5-dr MPV. In tonic blue with ebony interior, cruise control, air con, alloy wheels, immobiliser, alarm, only 63,990 miles **£5,995**

05 55 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.8 CDX Automatic 4-dr saloon in pearl black with bluish grey leather interior, climate control, cd auto-changer, front fog lights, anti lock brakes, only 64,450 miles **£3,995**

04 54 FORD Mondeo Ghia 5-Dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with ebony interior, 6-CD changer, automatic air con, alarm, immobiliser, alloy wheels, only 53,000 miles **£4,395**

99 T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr convertible. In green with green leather interior, alloy wheels, power hood, electric windows, front fogs, only 64,630 miles **£4,995**

SMALL

09 09 FORD Ka 1.2 Zetec 3-dr hatchback. In dive blue with grey interior, air con, quickclear screen, aux input, alloy wheels, cd, only 22,960 miles **£7,795**

09 09 CITROEN C1 1.4 HDi VTR 5-dr Hatchback in metallic blue with grey interior, radio/CD, ABS, power steering, elec front windows, £20 a year road tax, only 14,500 miles **£7,495**

08 58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr Hatchback. In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles **£3,995**

08 08 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Blue 3-dr hatchback in ocean blue with Koyoto blue interior, quickclear front screen, cd, aux input, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 30,720 miles **£6,995**

08 08 FORD KA Studio. In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles **£4,495**

06 56 FIAT Panda 1.2 Dynamic Duologic 5-dr In Guacamole green with yellow Move interior, air con, CD, central locking, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 30,500 miles .**£4,495**

06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Campus Sport 3-dr Hatchback in mercury silver with extreme grey interior, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alloy wheels, only 58,520 miles **£3,995**

05 55 TOYOTA Yaris 13 XVVT-i Colour Collection 3-dr hatchback in eclipse black with black/red interior, body coloured bumpers, power steering, alloy wheels, radio/cd, only 65,000 miles **£4,495**

05 55 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Expression 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, air con, CD, panoramic roof, only 49,600 miles **£4,495**

05 55 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 5-dr hatchback in panther black with Kompass interior quick clean screen, air con, alloy wheels, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 47,440 mils**£4.495**

04 04 PEUGEOT 206 CC 2.0 SE. In silver with black leather interior, air con, power steering, electric windows, CD, alloy wheels, only 45,000 miles **£4,995**

04 04 FORD Street Ka 1.6 2-dr convertible in French blue with midnight black interior, alloy wheels, cd, electric windows, electric mirors, only 49,170 miles **£4,495**

04 04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr hatchback. Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles ...**£3,495**

03 03 FORD Fiesta 1.4LX (a/c) Durashift EST 5-dr hatchback. In deep navy blue with midnight black interior, quickclear screen, air con, cd, service history, only 36,110 miles **£3,495**

05 55 TOYOTA Yaris 13 XVVT-i Colour Collection 3-dr hatchback in eclipse black with black/red interior, body coloured bumpers, power steering, alloy wheels, radio/cd, only 65,000 miles **£4,495**

05 55 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0TDCi Ghia 5-dr MPV. In tonic blue with ebony interior, cruise control, air con, alloy wheels, immobiliser, alarm, only 63,990 miles **£5,995**

05 55 VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 16v Club Automatic. In moonland grey, with charcoal interior, alloy wheels, air con, immobiliser, power steering, only 62,200 miles.....**£5,250**

05 05 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 T Fsi (200ps) GTi 5-dr Hatchback in tornado red with anthracite Vienna leather interior, parking sensors, heated front seats, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, onl 67,600 miles.....**£9,995**

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Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do wins a 23 trophy haul!

Cadoxton School of Tae Kwon Do display their hard won silverware.

ON Sunday, April 24, the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do attended the second tournament of a series of six Welsh master tournaments.

Once again, the students representing the Cadoxton School did their instructors and parents proud, with the club bringing home with them a collection of 23 trophies between them.

Successful in their respective categories were:

Matthew Bennett, first in point and second in continuous sparring; Jamie Halford, first in continuous sparring; Bradley Halford, first in continuous and second in point sparring; Charlotte Sullivan, first in point sparring; Lucy Newman, second in point and second in continuous sparring; Cameron Williams, first in continuous, first in point sparring and third in the pattern section; Cain Allen, third in continuous, third in point sparring and second in the pattern section; Morganne Gomez Jones, first in continuous sparring; Thomas Haysham, first in continuous, third in point sparring and second in the pattern section; Dafydd Jones, second in point and second in the continuous sparring; Ollie Tipples, first in point and second in continuous sparring; Tracey Goodwin, first in continuous sparring and first in the adult patterns.

Dominic Todd just missed out on a podium place. Competing for the first time was young Cody Jacobsen who did exceptionally well, to come away with a fourth place.

The club are now in serious training for the world games, which are being held in Cardiff during August of this year and are actively seeing sponsors for this event.

For further information and training times, please call 01446 406372.

RON THOMAS

Learning curve for the Cowbridge youngsters

THE West Wales XI visited Pontardawe, where the pitch at Pontardawe is one of the more picturesque ones, approached over a narrow canal bridge and bordered by trees and the Afon Tawe.

It is where a gull once halted play by depositing a live eel close to silly mid off! (The eel was returned to the canal where it swam off without a backward glance or wriggle of thanks).

Cowbridge made steady progress at first until the Pontardawe captain arrived at number six. He scored a rapid 75 not out, which altered the balance of the game completely.

Several bowlers were used and apart from one, the run rate was almost identical for each, although their luck was not. Rafi Shrizard bowled 11 good overs for only one wicket and deserved better, as did Rian Thomas from his five; he will be a great asset to the side.

Will Gamlin fielded well and picked up a good wicket, he is another welcome newcomer. It was good to see the return of Cai Owen and Jack Faulkner, both of whom also struck with the ball.

The outstanding performance came however from Tom Scott-Combes whose movement in the air was rewarded with four wickets for only 23 runs. Despite these efforts Potardawe made 219.

The batting performance sadly did not live up to the bowling and Cowbridge were soon seven runs for three wickets. The next batsman was the captain, who has no pretensions to aggressive stroke play but on this occasion, by dint of fierce concentration managed to keep one end going steadily until caught for 31 when trying to pull over midwicket. Rian Thomas contributed an elegant 10 runs and Will Gamlin will clearly score runs in the future.

Like a scorpion there was however a sting in the tail when the Shami brothers Hamza and Hatim provided a cameo performance contributing a valuable 13 runs. Cowbridge were all out for 97.

A few extra points were earned, new players were welcomed and it was a good game providing valuable experience.

ON AND OFF THE TURF
with **Brian Lee**

Tim in successful winning run

'HAVE horses will travel' is certainly the motto of Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan.

Since his success with *Spirit Of Adjisa* in the big novices hurdle race at Punchestown in Ireland, he has sent out the following winners: *Patrixboome* at Plumpton, *Holoko Heights* and *Erdeli* at Towcester, *Stonethrower* at Wincanton, *Hucking Hero* at Ludlow and last Saturday a 20–1 beauty in *Moorlands Jack* at Uttoxeter.

Vaughan, a graduate of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, wasn't at Uttoxeter to see his most recent winner.

He was at Laleston supporting his local point-to-point with his wife Abbi and children.

Abbi saddled *City Affair,* the winner of the confined race owned by Barry's Andrew Lowrie and ridden by Pembrokeshire's Mathew Barber.

Llancarfan's Evan Williams landed the feature race – Rayford Caravan Park Handicap Chase – at Stratford on Sunday with his seven-year-old *Trooper Clarence* who, ridden by 7lb claiming jockey Adam Wedge, came home at odds of 9–2.

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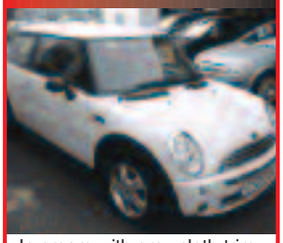
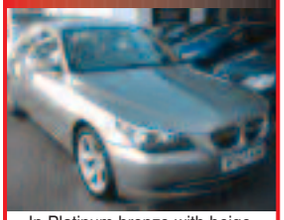
05 MINI ONE



In cream with grey cloth trim, 71,000 miles with pepper pack
£6,495

57 BMW 523i SE



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In met blue, 28,000 mile diesel
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04	**BMW 320 Sport Convertible** in steel grey with black leather, upgraded alloys, 74,000 miles	£9,995
03	**LANDROVER Discovery TD5 'S'.** In met green, 42,000 miles, 2 owner diesel 4x4	£8,995
55	**LANDROVER Freelander TD4 Adventurer 3-dr.** In silver, 61,000 miles, a/c, s/r, cd, etc	£7,995
05	**NISSAN X-Trial 2.2 DCi SE.** In bronze metallic, 63,000 mile diesel 4x4	£7,995
04	**LANDROVER Freelander 2.0 TD4 SE 5-dr.** In met black with black leather trim, 1 owner, 77,000 mile diesel	£7,995
53	**AUDI TT 3.2 Quattro Auto.** In silver with black leather trim, 57,000 miles	£7,995
05	**HONDA Civic 2.0 Type R.** In black, 53,000 miles with air con, drives superb REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£6,995
54	**JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 Sport Auto.** In met green with full leather trim, outstanding example at	£6,995
03	**VW Beetle 2.0 Convertible.** In ice blue, 52,000 miles, stylish 4 seater	£6,995
07	**SEAT Ibiza 1.9 TDi FR 3-dr.** In gun metal metallic, 51,000 miles, very lively diesel at. REDUCED BY £500 TO	£6,495
52	**MINI Cooper S** in met grey with black panoramic roof, full leather heated seats, very high specification	£5,995
54	**MERCEDES C230 Sport SE Auto. (1.8 Kompressor).** Black with black leather trim, 2 owners.	£5,995
99	**MERCEDES SLK 230 Kompressor Auto** in silver with black leather, 87,000 mile convertible	£5,995
05	**BMW 320 Diesel SE.** In silver with cd, alloys, a/c, nice example but high example	£5,495
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06	**SMART Roadster Auto** in two tone black/met blue, 62,000 miles, economical and versatile at	£4,995
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02	**MERCEDES C180 Elegance Auto.** In met-silver birch, 63,000 miles REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£3,995
06	**CHRYSLER PT Cruiser 2.4 Classic.** In met grey, 41,000 mile American classic.	£3,995
04	**FORD Street Ka** in electric blue, 17,000 miles, 2 owner convertible at only	£3,995
53	**SUBARU Impreza 2.0 GX Sport AWD Automatic.** In met blue, 45,000 miles, superb value	£3,995
52	**BMW 318i SE Auto** in steel blue, 85,000 miles, with 18 inch alloys.	£3,995

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09	**FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style 5-dr.** 82PS. In silver, 4,000 miles only, still under Ford warranty	£7,995
07	**TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 T Spirit.** Leather, air con, etc, gunmetal grey met, low miles	£7,995
08	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SXi 5-dr** in met black, 21,000 miles with a/c, alloys, etc.	£6,995
06	**VW Beetle 2.0.** In met blue, 49,000 miles with a/c, superb example at	£6,995
55	**MINI Cooper** in British racing green with white roof, low mileage example with pepper pack	£6,795
57	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Style Climate 3-dr.** In met blue, 28,000 mile diesel at.	£6,495
06	**PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi SE estate.** In met red, 64,000 miles, six seater, full panoramic roof	£6,495
56	**SEAT Altea 1.6 Reference Sport 5-dr** in silver, 33,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c	£6,495
05	**MINI One.** In cream with grey cloth trim, 71,000 miles with pepper pack	£6,495
56	**TOYOTA Avensis T3S 2.0-4D 5-dr.** In sea mist silver, 73,000 mile diesel hatch at REDUCED BY £500 TO	£5,995
05	**FORD Focus 2.0 TDCi Ghia 5-dr.** In black, 70,000 miles. Top of the range diesel	£5,995
58	**RENAULT Twingo 1.1 Extreme 3-dr** in black, 10,000 miles, one owner, low insurance.	£5,695
07	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Life 5-dr** in silver blue met, 50,000 miles with a/c.	£5,695
06	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.7 CDi SXi Estate** in met gunmetal grey, 74,000 miles, 1 owner diesel	£5,695
57	**VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2E 3-dr** in met black, low miles, low insurance	£4,995
55	**FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr.** In silver birch, 56,000 mile family hatch REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,995
06	**CITROEN Picasso 1.6 Desire.** In met blue, 39,000 miles, versatile family diesel hatch	£4,995
04	**TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3-S 5-dr.** In met blue, 73,000 miles, a/c, c/d, etc	£4,995
06	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Expression** in silver, low mileage example of this versatile model	£4,495
55	**CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire** in met grey, 48,000 miles with a/c and low insurance	£4,295
06	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 5-dr.** In electric blue, 61,000 miles with a/c, cd, alloys	£3,995
56	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.8 Sport 5-dr** in silver, 33,000 miles with full leather trim, a/c, etc	£3,995
55	**VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4S 3-dr** in met silver, 67,000 miles with a/c, alloys, cd, low insurance	£3,995
55	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique 5-dr** in electric blue, 48,000 miles, two owners	£3,995
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04	**FORD Fusion 1.4 '2'** in silver, 53,000 miles with a/c, CD, etc	£3,695
04	**FORD Fusion 2 1.4 Auto.** In silver birch metallic, 44,000 miles, 1 owner	£3,495
05	**FORD Ka 1.3i.** In met-blue, 32,000 miles, 1 lady owner	£2,995
54	**RENAULT Megane 1.4 Authentique 5-dr.** In met blue, 72,000 miles, 1 private owner with air con	£2,995
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53	**ROVER 75 1.8 T SE** in met gold, 77,000 miles, fantastic value for money	£2,795
02	**MAZDA 323F 1.3 GXi 5-dr.** In met green, low mileage, 2 owner example at	£1,995
51	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 5-dr.** In met blue, with CD etc, low insurance	£1,995

06 VOLKSWAGEN Beetle 2.0

In met blue, 49,000 miles with a/c, superb example at
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06 SMART Roadster Auto

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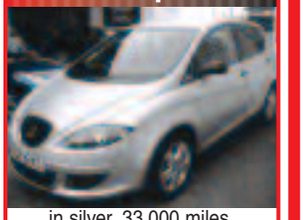
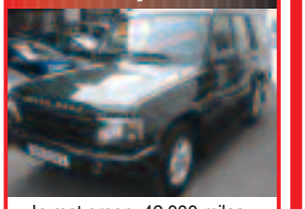
56 SEAT Altea 1.6 Reference Sport 5-dr



in silver, 33,000 miles, one owner with a/c
£6,495

04 LANDROVER Discovery TD5 'S'



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Cottrell Park ladies present winter trophy

COTTRELL PARK ladies had a busy Easter week starting with a treasure hunt in Cowbridge.

Ten teams of three set out to solve a list of clues and to find the objects asked for, returning with a swan, three feathers, a hummingbird and an object from outer space.

Kay Bradbury, Mij Evans and Chris Impey were the worthy winners.

On Thursday, a 12-hole Easter Stableford was played in the sunshine, with some very good scores. The winner was Sandra Collin with 26 points, second was Angela Padfield with 25 points, third, Mary Davies on 24 points.

Following a nice lunch, Jenny McGlyne the ladies' captain, presented the winter league trophy to Helen Evans.

The winter eclectic was won by Margaret Thomas.

She also gave the winners of the Easter competition nicely decorated baskets of Easter eggs, which were much appreciated.

The mixed Easter Monday Texas Scramble was enjoyed by all, and the winners were Jenny McGlyne, John McGlyne, Vicki Long and Robert McAndrew with a gross score of 69, net 62.6.

CB

Calling all club officials!

● *The GEM is expanding its sports coverage. If you would like your club to be part of this, please send your reports and other items of interest to Editorial Department, The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL (Tel: 01446 774484)*

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Sending off proves crucial as Dinas Powys slip to defeat

Dinas Powys	**1**
Ton Pentre	**2**

by Peter King

AFTER the first encounter between these two sides, Dinas were confident that they could give the Division Two champions another run for their money and so it proved.

After an even start Ton had the first shot on goal when a Dinas pass was cut out and Kristofer Rees hit a powerful shot from 18 yards which Dave Burnett parried and then gathered.

Gareth Tedstone then had a good run down the right and his on-target shot was taken at full stretch by Ton's Jon Howe.

On the 15-minute mark Wayne Antoniazzi evaded a couple of tackles but his cross-cum-shot was taken by Burnett.

Just minutes later came the controversial decision that had a bearing on the rest of the match. The Bulldogs attacked in numbers and after two initial shots from Andrew Hughes and Josh Evans were blocked on the line, the ball fell to Antoniazzi who drove it home from 10 yards for the opener on 18 minutes.

The referee then blew up and after some debate, showed Dinas defender Dave Penikett a straight red card for violent conduct which he vehemently denied.

The Villagers regrouped and, at times played some lovely football, keeping the ball well.

The game was heated at times and numerous free-kicks and bookings were in evidence for both sides but the scoreline remained at just one goal at the interval.

The home team had the worst start possible when they conceded another goal just two minutes after the break when a defensive header dropped invitingly for Evans to head a looping shot in for 2–0.

The Villagers then brought Mark Dunford on for Ben Dimond and they began to get on top. A ball over the defence from Steve Provis found Dunford on side but he shot over the bar.

The home side then had keeper Burnett to thank for a wonderful double save, first he punched a dangerous cross out followed by a shot from Andrew Hughes which looked goal-bound but Burnett dived backwards to claw the ball away to safety.

With 10 minutes remaining, Dinas got the reward their endeavours deserved when, from a corner, Steve Provis headed home powerfully from eight yards for 2–1.

This spurred them on and Ton were forced to hang on for the last 10 minutes, conceding several free-kicks, but Dinas were unable to take advantage of them as time ran out.

The home side's manager, Marc Cahill, went on record as saying how proud he was of his squad, especially with 10 men for most of the game as they had put in a disciplined and professional performance.

Further news and information can be found on the club's website at www.dinaspowys-fc.co.uk.

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165/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£52.44	£99	£190	165/70R13 Avon ZV5	£42.12	£80	£150	165/70R13 Budget	£35.12	£65	£120
175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£70.23	£130	£250	175/70R14 Avon ZV5	£53.34	£99	£190	175/70R14 Budget	£39.43	£70	£130
175/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£58.55	£110	£210	175/65R14 Avon ZV5	£44.95	£85	£160	175/65R14 Budget	£41.49	£75	£140

PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £41.85

Dunlop	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
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185/65R14 Bridgestone EP150	£80.33	£150	£290	185/65R14 Avon ZV5	£58.36	£110	£210	185/65R14 Budget	£41.85	£75	£140
185/65R15 Bridgestone EC000	£85.64	£160	£310	185/65R15 Avon ZV3	£62.59	£115	£220	185/65R15 Budget	£45.48	£85	£160
195/65R15 Bridgestone B250	£73.16	£135	£260	195/65R15 Avon ZV5	£57.07	£105	£199	195/65R15 Budget	£48.13	£90	£170

HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £42.04

Dunlop	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
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Cowbridge bowlers find their early season form

IT was a better week for Cowbridge Bowling Club, with four wins from five games.

The ladies played Whitchurch Hospital at home in the St Fagan's Rose Bowl, and had a good win 44–24.

Captain May Jones' rink led the way with a 25–12 win.

Other members of the rink were Mary thomas, Jan Lewis and Pauline McAllen.

Joan Bradley's rink also won 19–12, with a little help from Glenys Davies, Diane Purnell and Sue Flower.

The following day the ladies were in action again, this time in a Cowbridge Shield match, at home to Porthcawl P of W, and again had a good win 56–23.

There were two good wins by Shirley Wilkinson's rink of Lynda Wilson, Thelma Jones and May Jones, 22–6, and Sue Flowers' rink with Diane Purnell, Janet Morton and Helena Snelling, 23–9.

Pauline McAllen's rink also won in the closest game 11–8.

The next two matches were both at home to Rhoose.

First, the men played them in a Munro Cup match, winning 77–50, with only Dennis Snelling's rink going down 13–16.

There were two good wins by Byron Richards' rink 26–12, and Steve Dickens' rink 21–8.

Norman Wilkinson's rink was involved in a close game, but managed to win 17–14.

Then the ladies played them the following day in a ladies league match, again winning well, 89–23.

Rink scores: May Jones' rink won 41–4; Joan Bradley's rink won 31–10. The only close game saw Pat Davey's rink winning 17–9.

The nice thing about these matches is the new bowlers who are starting to play the odd match for the club.

Janet and Guy Morton, Clive Pritchard, Alan Wallace and Gerwyn Watkins look great for the future.

In the final game of the week, the men travelled to Aberkenfig for their second match of the Carruthers Shield, only losing by four shots, 27–18. Dennis Snelling's rink of Mansel Davey, Bill Looker and Brian Williams drew 19–19.

David Jones' rink only just lost 17–20.

Unfortunately, captain Norman Wilkinson's rink lost 14–24.

But well done to the team for a close game right to the end.

NJW

COWBRIDGE FIRST TEAM NOTCHES FIRST VICTORY

An outstanding performance in all aspects of the game earned Cowbridge First XI their first victory of the season when they travelled to Gorseinon on Saturday.

Brilliantly paced batting, outstanding fielding and accurate bowling produced a result the team thoroughly deserved.

Tom Merilaht lost the toss, again, and Chris Morgan, the Gorseinon captain, chose to bat.

They had quite a brisk start, but gradually the accurate bowling of Lloyd Bishop and Ali Bilal put the brakes on. The first wicket fell at 41 in the 12th over when Lloyd bowled one of the openers, and 10 runs later Ali took a smart catch off his own bowling to dismiss the other.

After this, the bowling partnership got into its stride to such an extent that they restricted the batsmen to 26 runs in 18 overs. They were ably supported by some outstanding fielding on an unpredictable outfield, so much so that after 30 overs Gorseinon had crawled to 67 for the loss of three wickets.

Both had bowled 15 overs; Lloyd returning figures of 1-28 and Ali 1-36. This sustained period of accurate opening bowling from the visitors and over-cautious batting from the home side, was Gorseinon's undoing.

After 40 overs, the score was 113 for 4 and the pace had to be increased dramatically if they were to set a decent score, so the remaining batsmen flayed everything in sight.

To their credit, and with a few rather bizarre umpiring decisions, they took the score to 184 for 6.

Alex Kurobasa and Adam Wood took the brunt of this thrashing although, to their credit, they never gave up trying to take wickets. At the end of the home side's innings Alex's figures were 2-56 off 10 overs and Adam's figures were 1–43 off six.

Cowbridge needed a controlled, and well-paced reply, and that's exactly what happened.

In 44 overs, they reached the target of 185 runs and Tom Merilaht batted throughout. In a brilliantly paced innings of 91 runs, without giving the opposition the hint of a chance, he saw his team to victory.

At the halfway mark the score was 88–3, after 30 overs it was 110–3, after 40 overs 158–4, and by this time the opposition knew they had lost.

The skipper deserves most of the praise for such a batting performance as he encouraged his young batsmen throughout.

Sam Wood showed maturity beyond his 14 years with a gem of an innings of 40 runs, which cemented the victory. He remained with Tom from the 25th to the 39th over while the score moved from 87 to 158 runs, the crucial part of the innings.

Nick Vaile, making a noteworthy return to the side, supplied the flourish at the end with 11 rapid runs with two glorious straight drives over the bowler's head, but it was appropriate that Tom Merilaht scored the winning runs with an outrageous tennis shot for four.

Afterwards, an obviously elated captain commented: "It's great to get that first win of the season under the belt. It was an outstanding performance in the field on a difficult surface, followed by a perfectly-timed run chase".

Next week the First XI is at home to Morriston, the Second XI is away. Come to the Athletic Club and give the team your support.

DL

Cowbridge 2nd XI chalk up another victory

THIS has been an excellent start to the season for Cowbridge and they were keen to continue this against newly-promoted side, Gorseinon, at the Athletic ground last Saturday.

Jonty Webb lost the toss and Gorseinon decided to bat first on an excellent looking wicket. The visitors were somewhat of an unknown entity, being promoted last season, so Cowbridge did not know what to expect from the Gorseinon side.

However, this initial uncertainty dissolved almost immediately with the home side totally dominating proceedings.

The Cowbridge attack, led by Harri Collier and Sean Rowland, struck early to leave Gorseinon 0 for 2 off 2 overs. From this point it became evident that the Gorseinon side simply could not handle the Cowbridge attack.

In this instance the figures speak for themselves. Gorseinon were finally all out for 38, with just five extras, and their captain, B Thomas (31), scoring the bulk of the runs.

Harri finished with a fantastic 6 for 18, Sean Rowland 2 for 4, with one wicket for the consistent Ian Evans.

Occasionally, chasing a low total can cause problems for a side; however, this was not the case on Saturday. Both Cowbridge openers, debutant, Tim Moss and Nick Rowland, set about scoring the runs in an assured manner.

The target was reached in 10 overs, with the match being completed at around 3.40pm.

This was a comprehensive victory for Cowbridge. The clinical nature of the victory was very pleasing, but they must not allow such an easy victory to go to their heads.

The side will face considerably better teams as the season progresses, not least Morriston next Saturday, and therefore must not rest on their laurels.

JW

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTING ROUND-UP

Cowbridge are Welsh basketball champions

FOR the first time in their history, Cowbridge School KS3 boys became national champions on Saturday at Swansea Leisure Centre, completing a two-year unbeaten run and coming top out of a 90-strong school entry.

In the semi-final, they gave coaches Bob Lewis and Olly Trotman a nervous 40 minutes, as they were rarely in front against a strong team from St Gerard's School, Bangor.

Cowbridge lost the first quarter by two and won the second by one with the third quarter being drawn. It was all on the final quarter.

In the final two minutes, Declain Thomas scored both his free throws after being fouled in the act of shooting and Tom Trotman and Matt Roberts scored in the last minute to secure a four-point cushion.

St Gerard's never gave up, and in the last 10 seconds scored a three pointer to cut the lead to one. Cowbridge played the ball in and kept possession for the last few seconds and ran out winners by the single point.

The whole hall erupted, as it had been a magnificent game with both teams giving their all. The teams embraced and shook hands, realising they had been part of an epic with referees, court officials and all spectators standing and clapping as both teams left the court.

Matt Roberts was top scorer with George Griffiths and Tom Trotman close behind.

Coaches Bob Lewis and Olly Trotman went AWOL after the post match team talk, as they were both too drained to speak or eat, once again having years taken off their life. Bob now should get a telegram from the Queen and Olly is too old to go to college?

So to the final against Cwm Rhymni from Caerphilly. This was a different game altogether, with Cowbridge getting off to a flyer from the tip off with a planned move and leading the first quarter by six points.

They won the second by five to lead at half time by 11 points with captain George Griffiths choosing the final for his best ever game for the school and top scoring with 12 points.

Cwm Rhymni were not giving up and came back to win the third quarter by five points, cutting the lead to six. But Cowbridge were not to be denied, with the whole team playing their part as many of the 'first five' had to be rested as they had given their all in the semis, were shattered and had to be rested for part of the game.

Cowbridge eventually ran out winners 44–32 completing their two-year unbeaten run. Throughout the season the squad has shown tremendous character, winning two games on the way to the final by a single point. They have heart in spades as they say!

Special mention must be made to Olly Trotman, who helped coach the team for his expertise and Olly is in the Welsh under-18 squad and leaves in July to study physical education at UWIC – he will be missed.

Cowbridge squad: George Griffiths (captain); Tom Trotman; Lloyd Elms; Myles Jenkins; Matt Roberts; Joe Gaughan; Harry Stubbington; Sean Rowlands; Alex Greaves and Declain Thomas.

Athletics

THE first open air athletics competition of the year took place at Leckwith stadium on May 4.

The combined events are a mix of athletics disciplines, in which each competitor has to take part in. Annabel Curle and George Griffiths started the season well with a winning performance and Tom Trotman was second.

In the senior boys competition, they took part in the javelin, 100m, long jump, shot putt and 1,000m. Matt Logsdon came fifth, Sam Bunkham sixth, Dillon Morgan seventh.

In the middle boys (year-10 and 11) they competed in the 100m hurdles, high jump, long jump, shot putt and 800m. Harry Thomas came 10th and Scott Laken 16th out of 26.

In the junior boys (year-8 and 9) event they took part in the shot putt, 80m hurdles, high jump, long jump and 800m.

George Griffiths won the event with a final score of 2,188 points and Tom Trotman was second with a total of 2,035 points. Brad Rosser came 20th out of 48 competitors.

In the senior girls (year-12 and 13) they competed in the high jump, 100m long jump, shot putt and 800m. Georgia Kemeys came sixth, Georgina Jackson seventh and Louise Edwards 10th.

In the middle girls (year-10 and 11) they competed in high jump, long jump, 80m hurdles, shot putt and 800m. Miriam Bennett came 10th, Caitlin Allin 13th and Liz Whitehouse 30th out of 33 competitors.

In the junior girls (year-8 and 9) they competed in the long jump, shot putt, 75m hurdles, high jump and 800m, Annabel Curle came first with 2,206 points, 22 points in front of Clare Taylor in second place.

This was a great achievement for Annabel after a difficult year suffering from Osgood Schlatter's disease. Sarah Lewis came 15th and Angharad Poole came 39th out of 42 competitors.

Seren runs for Wales

SEREN ALLIN from year-7 ran for Wales in the under-13 girl's Virgin London Mini Marathon.

The course is over three miles. Seren performed outstandingly and finished third among the Welsh contingent, in 24th place in 18 minutes 51 seconds. An excellent performance. Well done!

Lifesavers take gold

TWO Cowbridge Comprehensive pupils took part in the Welsh Nipper Still Water Lifesaving Championships at Swansea International Pool.

Tomos Macarthur, who is a member of Pen-y-Bont lifesaving club, repeated his success of 2010 and won gold in the 50m flipper, 100m rescue relay and 50m board and silver in the board relay.

Also, Callum Howells runner up in the Welsh Surfing Championships 2010, transferred his skills to the pool representing Southerndown and winning gold in the 100m board rescue,and a bronze in the 50m board.

Congratulations go to both young men for these excellent achievements.

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